KEN-NA Outreach Ministries
1030 N. Mountain Ave #165 Ontario, Ca. 91762
Email: kennaoutreach@gmail.com
Website – kennaoutreach.org

What is the purpose of Water Baptism and is it necessary to receive Salvation in Yeshua
(Ken Walston – Kenna Outreach Ministries)

My Dearest Brethren and Children of the Most High God: From Ken, who is an Elder and Teacher in the Church of Yeshua Adonai. May (YAHAWAH), give you understanding of this Letter to the Church (Body of Yeshua), so that you will be filled with the Truth and not let anyone deceive you in your Faith!

In the last 2000 years, throughout the history of the Church Age, there have been many false teachings based around misinterpretations and mis-transliteration to the written language of the New Testament.

The consensus of Pastors, Evangelists or Teachers who have been through the indoctrination and education of a Seminary and or Christian Institution (University or College); and especially those individuals who are Ultra-Religious and under restrictive doctrines and dogma, do not necessarily give them the wherewithal of being exposed to the Truth regarding the proper interpretation of the four (4) Gospels and associated Letters, which combined, make up what we use as the written New Testament (Brit HaChadashah) and Testimony regarding Yeshua ADONAI (Jesus the Lord).

In every instance where misinterpretation abides, the main reasons are relevant for not including within the interpretation, the historical Jewish Traditions, Cultural Lifestyles and Religious Implications of the times in which the Gospels and associated Letters were written.

Our Western Culture does not give allowance for understanding the Jewish Culture or Society associated to the written text at the time the four Gospels were written; and the Linguistics of the English Language which interpreted the Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic Transliterations was far from being accurate in so many instances in the Bible. Many scholars will say that the King James interpretation done in 1611AD is by far the most accurate account of what was transliterated from the original Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic Text, but it is not exact, which leaves many of the phrases and words open to misinterpretations. This has led to the development of a Concordance, which is a cross-reference of words and phrases used in the Bible that associate the true meaning of the English translated word to the original Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic word as transliterated. The Concordance does not intend to relate any of the original words or phrases to a cultural basis, so that the use of the words in the phrases apply to the understanding of the true meaning as related to the time in which the culture and social traditions would apply them. The Concordance gives what the word could or would mean under standard English interpretation in a linguistical context, which may not be the true meaning or intent being conveyed.

In many regards, theological intercession and tradition takes place over cultural and historical fact, as well as the Bible being regarded and reverenced as the “Infallible Word of God” in order to make up for these inconsistencies; instead of it being actually what it is, the written testimony of these facts, which would render it under interpretation as well as factual evidence to what the Word of God, Yeshua ADONAI intended and the Holy Spirit reveals to us in Truth and Testimony.

One such example of this is on the teaching of Baptism and three basic questions which have been argued regarding this:

1) Is it necessary to be Baptized in Water in order to receive Salvation through Yeshua?
2) Does an individual need to be Baptized in Water before they can be considered Saved?
3) Is Baptism in Water the same as being Baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Great and Mighty Holy Spirit?

The answer to all three of these questions and any others similar to this, is Absolutely Not… NO!

First, a little History Lesson on the Jewish Traditions and Obedience to the Law:

It is by deliberate tradition that the Church rendered itself under the Law of Moses and Water Baptism in accordance with the Jewish Traditions and Religious Order, plus the First Century when the Apostles in Jerusalem started the Church there, under the leadership of James, the half-brother of Yeshua. Because they were under great persecution, fear and condemnation, they sought after those who wanted to be part of their group, who were all Jews. They had been given no guidance on how to begin building what Yeshua called His Church.

Their fellowship was built around the only Standard they knew and was promoted by ADONAI (the Lord) during His Ministry while on earth, which was to the Law of Moses and the traditions of their Jewish upbringing and Rabbinical Teachings. One of these Traditions was Water Baptism or the Purification Ceremony.

After the Maccabean Wars (~167BC - 160BC) led by Mattathias the Hasmonean (One Hundred and Sixty years before Yeshua of Nazareth and Yohanan (John the Baptist) came into the world, there started a tradition whereby all Jews would show their allegiance to the Law of Moses and be reinstated to it through the act of being Baptized in Water; it was a Cleansing Ceremony. As well, this was also the way in which Non-Jews (Gentiles), would be allowed to convert into the Jewish Faith (Judaism) as a show of their conversion and ritual cleansing; this became part of the Pharisaic Law and as such, made part of the Common Law of Cleansing and prescribed Ritual therein. In this same time period, the Jewish festival of Hanukkah came about which celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple following Judah Maccabee's victory over the Seleucids and became a Rabbinical tradition, as did Water Baptism which was adopted as a mandatory part of this Tradition and indoctrinated as part of the Law. When Yohanan (John the Baptist) began his ministry, he did so under the Jewish Tradition which followed the Law of Moses and the Rabbinical Tradition of Water Baptism Cleansing in order to prepare the way for the Messiah, who would follow after him. Before Yeshua began His Earthly Ministry, He went before Yohanan so that He fulfill the Order of Water Baptism according to the Rabbinical Tradition. Even though John claimed that he needed Baptism by Yeshua, ADONAI said, “We must fulfill all Righteousness”, and so John Baptized Him in Water proclaiming His Righteous standing and dedication under the Law of Moses and Rabbinical Tradition.

According to the Purpose that the Messiah was to fulfill under Jewish interpretation of the Scriptures; Yeshua, at His Appointed Time and Visitation, was not going to fulfill. His Purpose according to what God the Father had appointed, was for the Son of God to prepare “The Truth, The Way and the Life” for all mankind to be forgiven their sins (now and forever) and to fulfill all Righteousness under the Law of Moses, thus allowing Yeshua to Propitiate the Law under Grace and then order “Faith” to be the Standard in replacement of the Law.

Yeshua, being Elohim (2nd Proponent of the Godhead - God in the Flesh), was coming as both Prophet and Messiah of Israel in order to fulfill all righteousness under the Law of Moses according to the Holy Scriptures. This would allow Him to stand between God and Man as their Saviour (The Son of God) as well as Advocate and fulfill the Prophecies, thus become the Sacrificial Lamb of God in accordance with the Law of Atonement; and give Propitiation of Sin for

all Mankind Forever. This replaced the Law of Moses, with the Law of Faith through Grace. God once and for all gave Clemency to the Atonement of Sins and Paid in Full the Credit which had been accumulating through the Law of Atonement.

Meanwhile, the Church in Jerusalem was becoming more and more embedded into the Law of Moses and making any new members coming to Yeshua ADONAI conform to the Strictness of the Law including Circumcision and Water Baptism. Unless the members acknowledged their allegiance to the full Law and Traditions, they were not allowed to become part of the Body of Yeshua (the Church) and considered unsaved.

The breakaway of this is when Saul of Tarsus (later known as Paul) was commissioned by Yeshua Himself to become the Apostle of the Gentiles and begin forming the World-Wide Church that we are today. The message was that “Faith” supersedes all acts and works under the Law, and that we are no longer bound by the Law. That any new converts being brought into the Church should not be bound by the Law of Moses or the Jewish Rabbinical Traditions.

One of the most used verses within the New Testament to promote the act of Water Baptism is the conversion of Paul, found in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 9:17-18*).

Acts 9:

Verse 17 - *Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, Yeshua ADONAI, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

Verse 18 - *Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized…*

We must keep in mind that the same Greek word **apolouo** {ap-ol-oo'-o} used in verse 18, is the same word used for being “Washed” referring to both baptism with water and baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the New Testament, including by such individuals as John the Baptist, Yeshua, Peter, and Paul. So, we cannot simply assume that the word "baptized" in verse 18 refers to water baptism. It has also been established that the phrase "filled with the Holy Spirit" would have been synonymous with "baptism in the Holy Spirit." Therefore, from this chapter itself, we find strong evidence that the baptism Paul received was baptism in the Holy Spirit, not water baptism, considering there was no pool or running water in the house Paul was staying in at the time Ananias visited him.

The assumption is that Verse 18 is recording the occurrence of both items Ananias was sent to accomplish. And there is no reason from the context to assume otherwise. So, judging from just this passage in chapter 9, we would assume Paul's baptism was not with water, but with the Holy Spirit since the Laying on of hands brought the Baptism of the Holy Spirit into Paul, and by this means, Paul Baptized Converts to Yeshua by means of the laying on of hands, and receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A perfect example in how Paul explains this to the Church in Corinth: “And such were some of you: but you are washed (*apolouo*), but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of Yeshua ADONAI, and by the Spirit of our God (*1 Corinthians 6:11*).

Paul himself denounced in his Gospel of Faith, that Salvation was not through acts performed according to the Law of Moses, nor having to be converted into Judaism first by performing the act of circumcision nor baptism in water in order to show your conversion into the Law of Moses (as the Church and Apostles in Jerusalem were imposing). The Commission that Yeshua ADONAI gave to the Apostle Paul was to go and bring the Heathen Nations (the Gentiles) into the Kingdom of God, and Paul strongly denounced having to perform any act other than the submission of the individual through Faith, into receiving their Salvation through the Death and

Resurrection of Yeshua ADONAI. The Laying-On of Hands after the individual received their Salvation was to receive the Baptism of The Holy Spirit and be "Washed Clean", but not through the Jewish tradition of Water Baptism in order to convert the individual into Judaism; but rather bring the individual Spiritually out of Death and Eternal Judgement into Life Eternal, so that the person may be "Born Again" as well as receive their Salvation through Faith in Yeshua ADONAI.

The manner in which the Apostle Paul was Baptized, would be the same manner in which he would Baptize and teach in regard to what Baptism was. Through his Commission by Yeshua to be the Apostle of the Gentiles, Paul would establish the World-Wide Church and the Manners of Conduct and the Rules of Engagement by which the Church (Body of Yeshua) would conduct itself as both a messenger and disciple of Faith from then and that point forward. It would become the doctrine of the Church.

In conclusion, Water Baptism is not a requirement in order to be Saved or have acceptance into the Body of Yeshua; and anyone who tells you it is, is totally misguided and should be rebuked as such. It is a self-appointed act under the mandate of a church assembly, order of a religion or individuals who feel they need a water cleansing in order to feel that they have done something which justifies their faith and symbolizes the death of the old man (being submerged), and then renewal of the new man in ADONAI (being resurrected out of the water) leaving behind the filth of their sins. This of course is not true, because our sins have already been forgiven us even before we accept Yeshua as our Lord and Saviour, but rather it is our heartfelt Faith that makes us Proclaim with our mouths, what our heart has already received, and that is that we desire our Salvation through Him and this can only be done through Faith, Faith in Yeshua ADONAI! 100% without any doubt or any act of works.

The Apostles got it wrong in the beginning when the Church in Jerusalem was being formed and was the center of the Christian Faith in the first century. The Acts of the Apostles which are recorded in a compilation of chronological events (The Book of Acts), as written by the Greek Antioch Physician (Doctor Luke), who was a convert, follower and bedside aid of the Apostle Paul, shows how in the beginning the Jerusalem Church totally conformed to the beliefs and traditions of the Jewish Torah, the Laws of Moses and the Rabbinical Traditions.

Church Patriarchs such as the Apostle Peter, the Apostle John and James the half-brother of Yeshua (who had been appointed as the Leader of the Church in Jerusalem) had fully embraced the Traditional Jewish Laws and Traditions as a requirement into membership of the Church. They strongly opposed Paul when he first visited their Assembly to pronounce what Yeshua had conveyed to him as the method and approach; he was to take in building the World-Wide Church to the Gentile Nations. They sought to destroy Paul's efforts at every place he had established Assemblies throughout Asia-Minor and Europe, by claiming conformance to the Jewish Laws and Traditions, including Circumcision and Water Baptism. Peter however, as the years went by, saw the fruit of Paul's Gospel of Faith and the successful conversion of Greek and Romans into the Gospel Message and Salvation by the thousands. John and the others followed as well and the manner in which Paul had established the Church eventually over-rode what the Church in Jerusalem had been teaching and imposing.

Nevertheless, as the context and content began to come together in the 3rd and 4th centuries to decide what would be the make-up of Gospels and additional references to the New Testament Scriptures, Canon Law and Traditions embedded themselves into that effort. After the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and the sacking of the Jewish Nation (ISRAEL), the development of the Church Order gave way to Religious Politics and began dividing Truth into Legend and Mystery of Content gave way to Scholastic and Priestly interpretation. The common person could not decipher, understand nor convey the Gospel, but could only be ruled and dominated by it's Laws and Obedience to the Church under the threat of condemnation by God if

violated. We still see that being perpetrated to this day through many different Assemblies and Religious Orders within the Christian Church.

What the Gospel of ADONAI teaches and proclaims, is that we are all sinners and fall short of the Glory of God, and that there is no means by which we can redeem ourselves through acts or works, or atonement or law. It proclaims that God Himself has given all of us, Jew and Gentile, the Way and the ability to be redeemed and have our sins washed away and then Receive Salvation into Everlasting Life.

What the "Good News" is, is that our captivity to Sin is Over! That Yeshua of Nazareth came as the Only Begotten Son of the Father, that God proclaimed Him to be the Son of God (Elohim - direct extension of the Father) and Saviour of all mankind. That our conversion from Death into Life would be through our heartfelt belief that Yeshua is the Son of God, both ADONAI (Lord) and God, and that his Sacrificial Death fulfilled and paid for all of the Atonement of mankind's sin and gave complete Propitiation of our sins Forever, not just Christians, but ALL of the Human Race (all people). It thus proclaims that His Resurrection from Death, by the Power of God the Father, completely eradicates the Spirit of Death, the Powers of Darkness and the Grave from ever being imposed through the Judgement of God on us and secures Everlasting and Eternal Life for all that receive it through Faith (*Ref: Romans 10:8-12*).

That's it folks, anything else is man-made and not part of God's Purpose.