

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Alfred Edersheim, a noted authority on Jewish life and customs, provides the following information regarding mode of proselyte baptism:

The baptism was to be performed in the presence of three witnesses, ordinarily Sanhedrists, but in case of necessity others might act. The person to be baptized, having cut his hair and nails, undressed completely, made fresh profession of his faith before what were designated "the fathers of the baptism," and then immersed completely, so that every part of the body was touched by the water.

*Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, 2:746*

*Mode of ritual baths of Jewish sects, particularly that at Qumran.* From 100 BC to about 67 AD a small group of Essene monks lived in a monastery in the Judean wilderness at Khirbet Qumran. They wrote, studied, sang hymns, prayed and copied the Scriptures. At the time of the great Jewish War, they dispersed, after hiding their precious scrolls in caves nearby. Recently their scrolls and their monastery have been uncovered. They have become known as the Dead Sea Community, or the Sect of Qumran.

The monks who were full members of this order were required to take ceremonial baths. At the northwest corner of the ruins of the monastery is an open baptistery, with steps leading down into it, quite large enough for immersion.

In the *Zadokite Work* (also called the *Damascus Document*), the following rule is recorded:

On cleansing in water. No man shall wash in dirty water or [water] not sufficient for immersion of a man. None shall cleanse himself in water from a vessel. And every pool in a rock in which there is not sufficient water for immersion, or which has touched some unclean thing, its waters shall be contaminated like the water from a vessel.