

"BAPTO: a. to dip, dip in, immerse . . . b. to dip into dye, to dye, color"

"BAPTIZO: 1. prop. to dip repeatedly, to immerge, submerge . . . 2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water; in the mid. and the 1 aor. pass. to wash one's self, bathe . . . 3. metaph. to overwhelm"

NOTE: in using Thayer's Lexicon it is important to recognize the fact that the first meaning given by Thayer (where there is a notable usage in the literature) is usually the word's meaning in the classical Greek; then follow its meanings in the Septuagint (if any) and the New Testament. In his Preface (page vii) Thayer himself states that "the exposition of classic usage is often intended merely to serve as a standard of comparison by which the direction and degree of a word's change in meaning can be measured." Thus, instead of using Thayer's Lexicon in the way we often use English dictionaries that is, by taking the first meaning given as the preferred or most important one we should take the first meaning as that employed in the Greek classics, as is usually obvious from the authors cited. It is also important to note that when lexicographers use the adjectives "primary" and "secondary", as modifying meaning, they intend us to understand original and subsequent meanings, or earlier and later meanings, rather than "of primary importance" and "of secondary importance". This distinction cannot be stressed too strongly.

Bauer, Arndt, and Gingrich's *Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament* states the following:

"BAPTO -- 1. dip, dip in . . . 2. dip into, dye . . ."

"BAPTIZO -- dip, immerse, mid, dip oneself, wash"

The *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* Volume 1, under the heading BAPTO, BAPTIZO, states:

"BAPTO, 'to dip in or under' . . . 'to dye' The intens. BAPTIZO occurs in the sense of 'to immerse' (trans.) from the time of Hippocrates, in Plato and esp. in later writers . . . The sense of 'to bathe' or 'to wash' is only occasionally found in Hellenism, . . . usually in sacral contexts, . . . The idea of going under or perishing is nearer the general usage."

(2) Usage of relevant words in the LXX

BAPTO is used in the following 18 references in the LXX:

Exodus 12:22 (dip hyssop in blood)

Leviticus 4:6, 17 (dip finger in blood)

Leviticus 9:9 (dipped finger in blood)

Leviticus 11:32 (vessel must be put into water)

Leviticus 14:6 (dip cedar wood, scarlet, hyssop, and bird in blood)

Leviticus 14:16 (dip right finger in oil)

Leviticus 14:51 (dip cedar wood, hyssop, scarlet, and bird in blood)

Numbers 19:18 (dip hyssop in the water)

Deuteronomy 33:24 (let him dip his foot in oil)