

First, it should be noted that of the eight references translated "baptize with water," four (Matthew 3:11; John 1:26; John 1:31; John 1:33) employ the preposition EN, and four (Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16) use no preposition, but all use the instrumental Case (or Dative of instrument).

Second, it should be noted that six of these eight references (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16) include the parallel expression, "baptize with the Holy Spirit"; and all six of these use the preposition EN. To insist that EN be translated "in" would force the parallel to be translated, "baptize in the Holy Spirit," which would convey no clear meaning, except the implication of unreasonableness and dogmatic bias of the translator!

Third, of the six references that include the parallels, "baptize with water" and "baptize with the Holy Spirit," only two (Matthew 3:11; John 1:33) use EN with water; the other four (Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16) do not use EN, but simply use the instrumental Case of HUDOR.

Thus the translation, "I baptize you with water, . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit," stresses the element in each of the baptisms (water, Spirit); and would appear to be both reasonable and accurate.

What about the three references (Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:5; Mark 1:9) that speak of being baptized in (EN) the Jordan River? These indicate the place where the baptisms were performed. All three of them relate to John's baptism. From usage in context alone, we cannot ascertain how the ritual was performed, but only that it was performed in the Jordan. Of course, the objection could be made that the preposition EN can be translated by the words "by" or "at," so that John could have baptized by the Jordan or at the Jordan, but this would appear to go against the grain of Matthew 3:16, where Jesus is said to have gone up or ascended from the water after His baptism, and of Mark 1:9, which uses EIS instead of EN.

What about the six special cases (Matthew 3:16; Mark 7:4, Luke 11:38; John 3:23; Acts 8:38; I Corinthians 10:2)?

Matthew 3:16 tells us that "after being baptized, Jesus went up (ANABAINO) immediately from (APO) the water." The word ANABAINO clearly means "to go up, to ascend." Some have inferred from this a picture of Jesus coming up from beneath the surface of the water, or rising out of the water in which He had been submerged. However, the text simply says that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, and that He immediately went up from (APO) the water. It does not tell us how He was baptized in the Jordan, but only that following His baptism He came up from the water. After He was baptized (by whatever mode John used), He came up from the Jordan River.

Mark 7:4 tells us that "when they (the Pharisees and all the Jews) come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves (BAPTIZO)"

in the Sixth Division of the Mishnah (Tohoreth) Tractate Yadaim 2(3), we find the following: