

~BATHING (748)

[Hebrew, *ra-chats'* bathe or wash, *ka-vas'*, knead or stamp Greek *lou-tron'*, bath]

- The Hebrew word *ra-chats'* is rendered either bathe or wash and applies to the human body and other objects that are cleansed by dipping or by having water poured over them.
- And he must **bathe** his flesh in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and render up his burnt offering and the peoples burnt offering and make atonement in his own behalf and in behalf of the people. (**Leviticus 16:24**)
- With that the man came on into the house, and he went unharnessing the camels and giving straw and fodder to the camels and water to **wash** his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. (**Genesis 24:32**)
- However, to describe the washing of clothes when they are pounded under water, Bible writers used the Hebrew word *ka-vas'*, related to the Arabic *kabasa*, meaning to **knead** or **stamp**, and the Akkadian *kabasu*, meaning to **tread down**. We, therefore, read in;
- And the one cleansing himself must wash his garments and shave off all his hair and **bathe** in water and must be clean, and afterward he may come into the camp. And he must dwell outside his tent seven days. (**Leviticus 14:8**)
- And the one cleansing himself must **wash**, a form of *ka-vas'*, his garments and shave off all his hair and **bathe** Hebrew *wera-chats'* in water and must be clean.
- And a man who may touch his bed should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:5**)
- And whoever sits upon the article upon which the one having a running discharge was sitting should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:6**)
- And whoever touches the flesh of the one having a running

- discharge should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:7**)
- And in the case of the one who has a running discharge spitting upon someone clean, he must in that case **wash** his garments and **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:8**)
 - And any saddle upon which the one having a running discharge was riding will be unclean. (**Leviticus 15:9**)
 - And anyone touching anything that happens to be under him will be unclean until the evening, and he who carries them will **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:10**)
 - And anyone whom the one having a running discharge might touch when he has not rinsed his hands in water must then **wash** his garments and **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:11**)
 - And an earthenware vessel that the one having a running discharge might touch should be smashed, and any wooden vessel should be **rinsed with water**. (**Leviticus 15:12**)
 - Now in case the one having a running discharge would become clean from his running discharge, he must then count for himself seven days for his purification, and he must **wash** his garments and **bathe** his flesh in running water, and he must be clean. (**Leviticus 15:13**)
 - And on the eighth day he should take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and he must come before Yehowah to the entrance of the tent of meeting and give them to the priest. (**Leviticus 15:14**)
 - And the priest must offer them, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and the priest must make atonement for him before Yehowah concerning his running discharge. (**Leviticus 15:15**)
 - Now in case a man has an emission of semen go out from him, he must then **bathe** all his flesh in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:16**)

- And any garment and any skin upon which the emission of semen gets to be must be **washed** with water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:17**)
- As for a woman with whom a man may lie down with an emission of semen, they must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:18**)
- And in case a woman is having a running discharge, and her running discharge in her flesh proves to be blood, she should continue seven days in her menstrual impurity, and anyone touching her will be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:19**)
- And anything upon which she may lie down in her menstrual impurity will be unclean, and everything upon which she may sit will be unclean. (**Leviticus 15:20**)
- And anyone touching her bed should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:21**)
- And anyone touching any article upon which she was sitting should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:22**)
- And if it was upon the bed or upon another article that she was sitting, by his touching it he will be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:23**)
- And if a man lies down with her at all and her menstrual impurity comes to be upon him, he must then be unclean seven days, and any bed upon which he might lie down will be unclean. (**Leviticus 15:24**)
- As for a woman, in case the running discharge of her blood should be flowing many days when it is not the regular time of her menstrual impurity, or in case she should have a flow longer than her menstrual impurity, all the days of her unclean running discharge will prove as in the days of her menstrual impurity. She is unclean. (**Leviticus 15:25**)
- Any bed upon which she may lie any of the days of her running discharge will become for her as the bed of her menstrual

impurity, and any article upon which she may sit will become unclean like the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity. (Leviticus 15:26)

- And anyone touching them will be unclean, and he must **wash** his garments and **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (Leviticus 15:27)
- And the clean person must spatter it upon the unclean one on the third day and on the seventh day and must purify him from sin on the seventh day, and he must **wash** his garments and **bathe** in water, and he must be clean in the evening. (Numbers 19:19)
- The **Greek** word for **bath** is *lou-tron*.
- Owing to no works in righteousness that we had performed, but according to his mercy he saved us through the **bath** that brought us to life and through the making of us new by Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5)
- **Physical cleanliness is required of those who worship Yehowah in holiness and purity. This was demonstrated in connection with the tabernacle arrangement and the later temple service. At their installation, High Priest Aaron and his sons **bathed** before donning the official garments.**
- And you will present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and you must **wash** them with water. (Exodus 29:4)
- Then you must take the garments and clothe Aaron with the robe and the sleeveless coat of the ephod and with the ephod and the breastpiece, and you must tie it closely to him with the girdle of the ephod. (Exodus 29:5)
- And you must set the turban upon his head and put the holy sign of dedication upon the turban. (Exodus 29:6)
- And you must take the anointing oil and pour it upon his head and anoint him. (Exodus 29:7)
- Then you will bring his sons near and you must clothe them with the robes. (Exodus 29:8)

- And you must gird them with the sashes, Aaron as well as his sons, and you must wrap the headgear upon them, and the priesthood must become theirs as a statute to time indefinite. So you must fill the hand of Aaron and the hand of his sons with power. (**Exodus 29:9**)
- Then you must bring Aaron and his sons near to the entrance of the tent of meeting and **wash** them with water. (**Exodus 40:12**)
- And you must clothe Aaron with the holy garments and anoint him and sanctify him, and so he must act as priest to me. (**Exodus 40:13**)
- After that you will bring his sons near and you must clothe them with robes. (**Exodus 40:14**)
- And you must anoint them just as you anointed their father, and so they must act as priests to me, and their anointing must serve continually for them as a priesthood to time indefinite during their generations. (**Exodus 40:15**)
- So Moses brought Aaron and his sons near and washed them with water. (**Leviticus 8:6**)
- After that he put the robe upon him and girded him with the sash and clothed him with the sleeveless coat and put the ephod upon him and girded him with the girdle of the ephod and bound it closely to him with it. (**Leviticus 8:7**)
- To wash their hands and feet, the priests used water from the copper basin in the courtyard of the tabernacle and, later, from the huge molten sea at Solomon's temple.
- You must make a basin of copper and its stand of copper for washing, and you must put it between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water into it. (**Exodus 30:18**)
- And Aaron and his sons must **wash** their hands and their feet at it. (**Exodus 30:19**)
- When they go into the tent of meeting they will wash with water that they may not die, or when they go near the altar to minister in order to make an offering made by fire smoke to Yehowah. (**Exodus 30:20**)

- And they must wash their hands and their feet that they may not die, and it must serve as a regulation to time indefinite for them, for him and his offspring throughout their generations. (**Exodus 30:21**)
- Then he placed the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for **washing**. (**Exodus 40:30**)
- And Moses and Aaron and his sons **washed** their hands and their feet at it. (**Exodus 40:31**)
- When they went into the tent of meeting and when they went near to the altar they would wash, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 40:32**)
- And he proceeded to make the molten sea ten cubits from its one brim to its other brim, circular all around, and its height was five cubits, and it took a line of thirty cubits to circle all around it. (**2 Chronicles 4:2**)
- And there was the likeness of gourd-shaped ornaments under it clear around, surrounding it, ten in a cubit, enclosing the sea all around. The gourd-shaped ornaments were in two rows, being cast in its casting. (**2 Chronicles 4:3**)
- It was standing upon twelve bulls, three facing the north and three facing the west and three facing the south and three facing the east, and the sea was above upon them, and all their hind parts were inward. (**2 Chronicles 4:4**)
- And its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was like the workmanship of the brim of a cup, a lily blossom. As a receptacle, three thousand **bath** measures were what it could contain. (**2 Chronicles 4:5**)
- Further, he made ten basins, and put five to the right and five to the left, to wash in them. Things having to do with the burnt offering they would rinse in them. But the sea was for the priests to **wash** in it. (**2 Chronicles 4:6**)
- On the Day of Atonement the High Priest **bathed** twice.
- He should put on the holy linen robe, and the linen drawers

- should come upon his flesh, and he should gird himself with the linen sash and wrap himself with the linen turban. They are holy garments. And he must **bathe his flesh in water** and put them on. (**Leviticus 16:4**)
- And Aaron must come into the tent of meeting and strip off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the holy place, and he must lay them down there. (**Leviticus 16:23**)
 - And he must **bathe** his flesh in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and render up his burnt offering and the peoples burnt offering and make atonement in his own behalf and in behalf of the people. (**Leviticus 16:24**)
 - Those who took the goat for Azazel, the remains of the animal sacrifices, and the sacrificial red cow outside the camp had to **bathe** their flesh and wash their garments before reentering the camp.
 - As for the one who sent the goat away for Azazel, he should wash his garments, and he must **bathe** his flesh in water, and after that he may come into the camp. (**Leviticus 16:26**)
 - However, he will have the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, the blood of both of which was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, taken forth outside the camp, and they must burn their skins and their flesh and their dung in the fire. (**Leviticus 16:27**)
 - And the one who burned them should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** his flesh in water, and after that he may come into the camp. (**Leviticus 16:28**)
 - This is a statute of the Law that Yehowah has commanded, saying; Speak to the sons of Israel that they should take for you a sound red cow in which there is no defect and upon which no yoke has come. (**Numbers 19:2**)
 - And you must give it to Eleazar the priest, and he must lead it forth outside the camp, and it must be slaughtered before him. (**Numbers 19:3**)
 - Then Eleazar the priest must take some of its blood with his finger and spatter some of its blood straight toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times. (**Numbers 19:4**)

- And the cow must be burned under his eyes. Its skin and its flesh and its blood together with its dung will be burned. (Numbers 19:5)
- And the priest must take cedarwood and hyssop and coccus scarlet material and throw it into the midst of the burning of the cow. (Numbers 19:6)
- And the priest must wash his garments and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he may come into the camp, but the priest must be unclean until the evening. (Numbers 19:7)
- And the one who burned it will **wash** his garments in water and must **bathe** his flesh in water, and he must be unclean until the evening. (Numbers 19:8)
- And a clean man must gather up the ashes of the cow and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and they must serve the assembly of the sons of Israel as something to be kept for the water for cleansing. It is a sin offering. (Numbers 19:9)
- And the one gathering the ashes of the cow must **wash** his garments and be unclean until the evening. And it must serve the sons of Israel and the alien resident who is residing as an alien in their midst as a statute to time indefinite. (Numbers 19:10)
- Ceremonial **bathing** on the part of the Israelites in general was required for various reasons. Anyone who recovered from leprosy, anyone who contacted things touched by those with a running discharge, a man who had an emission of semen, a woman after menstruation or hemorrhaging, or anyone having sexual intercourse was unclean and had to **bathe**.
- And the one cleansing himself must **wash** his garments and shave off all his hair and bathe in water and must be clean, and afterward he may come into the camp. And he must dwell outside his tent seven days. (Leviticus 14:8)
- And it must occur on the seventh day that he should shave off all his hair on his head and his chin and his eyebrows. Yes, he should shave off all his hair, and he must **wash** his garments and bathe his flesh in water, **and he must be clean**. (Leviticus 14:9)

- Any bed upon which the one having a running discharge may lie down will be unclean, and any article upon which he may sit will be unclean. (**Leviticus 15:4**)
- And a man who may touch his bed should **wash** his garments, and he must **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:5**)
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(Leviticus 15:13)

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- And anyone touching them will be unclean, and he must **wash** his garments and **bathe** in water and be unclean until the evening. (**Leviticus 15:27**)
- One in a tent with, or touching, a human corpse was unclean and had to be purified with **cleansing water**. If anyone refused to comply with this regulation, he must be cut off from the midst of the congregation, because it is Yehowah's sanctuary that he has defiled.
- But the man who may be unclean and who will not purify himself, well, that soul must be cut off from the midst of the congregation, because it is Yehowah's sanctuary that he has defiled. The water for cleansing was not sprinkled upon him. He is unclean. (**Numbers 19:20**)
- Appropriately, then, **washing** is used **figuratively** to denote a **clean standing before Yehowah**.
- I shall **wash my hands in innocence** itself, and I will march around your altar, O Yehowah. (**Psalms 26:6**)
- Surely it is in vain that **I have cleansed my heart** and that I **wash my hands in innocence** itself. (**Psalms 73:13**)
- **Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean**, remove the badness of

- your dealings from in front of my eyes, cease to do bad. (**Isaiah 1:16**)
- Furthermore, I washed you with water and rinsed away your blood from off you and greased you with oil. (**Ezekiel 16:9**)
 - **Bathing** with **Yehowah's word of truth, symbolized by water**, has power to cleanse.
 - That he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word. (**Ephesians 5:26**)
 - Passing references in the Bible are made to individuals **bathing**: Pharaoh's daughter in the Nile.
 - After a while Pharaoh's daughter came down to **bathe** in the Nile River, and her female attendants were walking by the side of the Nile River. And she caught sight of the ark in the middle of the reeds. Immediately she sent her slave girl that she might get it. (**Exodus 2:5**)
 - Ruth before presenting herself to Boaz.
 - And you must **wash** and rub yourself with oil and put your mantles upon you and go down to the threshing floor. Do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. (**Ruth 3:3**)
 - Bath-sheba unwittingly in the sight of David.
 - And it came about at the time of evening that David proceeded to rise from his bed and walk about on the rooftop of the king's house, and from the rooftop he caught sight of a woman **bathing** herself, and the woman was very good in appearance. (**2 Samuel 11:2**)
 - Then David sent and inquired about the woman and someone said; Is this not Bath-sheba the daughter of Eliam the wife of Uriah the Hittite? (**2 Samuel 11:3**)
 - David before prostrating himself in the house of Yehowah.
 - Then David got up from the earth and **washed** and rubbed himself with oil and changed his mantles and came to the house

- of Yehowah and prostrated himself, after which he came into his own house and asked, and they promptly set bread before him and he began to eat. ([2 Samuel 12:20](#))
- **Prostitutes at a pool in Samaria.**
 - And they began to **wash** off the war chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs went licking up his blood, and the prostitutes themselves bathed there, according to Yehowah's word that he had spoken. ([1 Kings 22:38](#))
 - **Leprous Naaman, at Elisha's command, **Bathe** and be clean, did so seven times in the Jordan River.**
 - So Naaman came with his horses and his war chariots and stood at the entrance of the house of Elisha. ([2 Kings 5:9](#))
 - However, Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying; Going there, you must **bathe** seven times in the Jordan that your flesh may come back to you, and be clean. ([2 Kings 5:10](#))
 - At this Naaman grew indignant and began to go away and say; Here I had said to myself, To me he will come out all the way and will certainly stand and call upon the name of Yehowah his God and move his hand to and fro over the place and actually give the leper recovery. ([2 Kings 5:11](#))
 - Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not **bathe** in them and certainly be clean? With that he turned and went away in a rage. ([2 Kings 5:12](#))
 - His servants now approached and spoke to him and said; My father, had it been a great thing that the prophet himself had spoken to you, would you not do it? How much more, then, since he said to you, **Bathe** and be clean? ([2 Kings 5:13](#))
 - At that he went down and began to plunge into the Jordan seven times according to the word of the man of the true God, after which his flesh came back like the flesh of a little boy and he became clean. ([2 Kings 5:14](#))
 - It was a custom to **bathe** newborn babes and also to **bathe** the bodies of the dead before burial.

- And as regards your birth, on the day of your being born your navel string had not been cut, and in water you had not been **washed for cleansing**, and with salt you had not at all been rubbed, and by no means had you been swaddled. (**Ezekiel 16:4**)
- But in those days she happened to fall sick and die. So they bathed her and laid her in an upper chamber. (**Acts of Apostles 9:37**)
- In the hot climate of the Middle East where people walked dusty roads in open sandals, it was a mark of hospitality and kindness to provide for **washing the feet of one's guests**. Abraham extended this kindness to angels
- Afterward Yehowah appeared to him among the big trees of Mamre, while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent about the heat of the day. (**Genesis 18:1**)
- When he raised his eyes, then he looked and there three men were standing some distance from him. When he caught sight of them he began running to meet them from the entrance of the tent and proceeded to bow down to the earth. (**Genesis 18:2**)
- Then he said, Yehowah, if, now, I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by your servant. (**Genesis 18:3**)
- Let a little water be taken, please, and you **must have your feet washed**. Then recline under the tree. (**Genesis 18:4**)
- Other examples included Lot, Laban, and Abigail.
- Now the two angels arrived at Sodom by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them, then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. (**Genesis 19:1**)
- And he proceeded to say; Please, now, my lords, turn aside, please, into the house of your servant and stay overnight and have your **feet washed**. Then you must get up early and travel on your way. To this they said; No, but in the public square is where we shall stay overnight. (**Genesis 19:2**)
- Now Rebekah had a brother and his name was Laban. So Laban

went running to the man who was outside at the fountain.
(Genesis 24:29)

- And it came about that on seeing the nose ring and the bracelets on the hands of his sister and on hearing the words of Rebekah his sister, saying; This is the way the man spoke to me, then he came to the man and there he was, standing by the camels at the fountain. (Genesis 24:30)
- At once he said; Come, you blessed one of Yehowah. Why do you keep standing out here, when I myself have made the house ready and room for the camels? (Genesis 24:31)
- With that the man came on into the house, and he went unharnessing the camels and giving straw and fodder to the camels and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. (Genesis 24:32)
- Immediately she rose up and bowed with her face to the earth and said; Here is your slave girl as a maidservant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord. (1 Samuel 25:41)
- And, taking a position behind at his feet, she wept and started to wet his feet with her tears and she would wipe them off with the hair of her head. Also, she tenderly kissed his feet and greased them with the perfumed oil. (Luke 7:38)
- With that he turned to the woman and said to Simon; Do you behold this woman? I entered into your house; You gave me no water for my feet. But this woman wet my feet with her tears and wiped them off with her hair. (Luke 7:44)
- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. (1 Timothy 5:10)
- Jesus also washed the feet of his disciples.
- After that he put water into a basin and started to wash the feet of the disciples and to dry them off with the towel with which he was girded. (John 13:5)
- And so he came to Simon Peter. He said to him; Lord, are you

washing my feet? (John 13:6)

- In answer Jesus said to him; What I am doing you do not understand at present, but you will understand after these things. (John 13:7)
- Peter said to him; **You will certainly never wash my feet.** Jesus answered him; Unless I wash you, you have no part with me. (John 13:8)
- Simon Peter said to him; Lord, not **my feet only, but also my hands and my head.** (John 13:9)
- Jesus said to him; He that has bathed does not need to have more than his feet washed, but is wholly clean. And you men are clean, but not all. (John 13:10)
- He knew, indeed, the man betraying him. This is why he said, Not all of you are clean. (John 13:11)
- When, now, he had washed their feet and had put his outer garments on and laid himself down at the table again, he said to them; Do you know what I have done to you? (John 13:12)
- You address me, Teacher, and, Lord, and you speak rightly, for I am such. (John 13:13)
- Therefore, if I, although Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you **also ought to wash the feet of one another.** (John 13:14)
- For **I set the pattern for you,** that, just as I did to you, you should do also. (John 13:15)
- Most truly I say to you, A slave is not greater than his master, nor is one that is sent forth greater than the one that sent him. (John 13:16)
- If you know these things, happy you are if you do them. (John 13:17)

See Also WASHING OF FEET

- The Pharisees **washed their hands up to the elbow,** not for hygienic reasons, but strictly because of rabbinic traditions.

- **Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes that had come from Jerusalem gathered about him. (Mark 7:1)**
- **And when they saw some of his disciples eat their meal with defiled hands, that is, unwashed ones. (Mark 7:2)**
- **For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the tradition of the men of former times. (Mark 7:3)**
- **And, when back from market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves by sprinkling, and there are many other traditions that they have received to hold fast, baptisms of cups and pitchers and copper vessels. (Mark 7:4)**
- **So these Pharisees and scribes asked him; Why is it your disciples do not conduct themselves according to the tradition of the men of former times, but they take their meal with defiled hands? (Mark 7:5)**
- **Then there came to Jesus from Jerusalem Pharisees and scribes, saying; (Matthew 15:1)**
- **Why is it your disciples overstep the tradition of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal. (Matthew 15:2)**