

The Tent of Meeting

The Basin (Laver)

"Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting an offering made to the LORD by fire"

- Exodus 30:18-20

"They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting."

- Exodus 38:8

The Bronze Basin

The Design

- Made of bronze (judgment).
- It was made of mirrors, so it was shiny.
- Its design is not specific. It is pictured in many ways.

The Placement

- It stood between the altar and the Tabernacle.

The Dual Usage

"...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

- Hebrews 10:22

1. A complete, one-time washing to serve God as a clean vessel.

A. For Aaron and his sons.

"Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest."

- Exodus 40:12

B. For Christians. This is a picture of baptism, a one-time washing to remind us of our righteousness in Christ.

"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- Acts 2:38

"...for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

- Galatians 3:27

Baptism probably has more differences than any other doctrine.

For example:

The Mode: sprinkling, pouring or immersion

The Direction: forwards or backwards

The Number of times: one or three

The Meaning:

- A picture of salvation
(*An outward sign of an inward cleansing*)
- A necessary part of salvation

2. A daily washing of the hands and feet.

"Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not every one was clean."

- John 13:10,11

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

- 1 John 1:8,9

- The "basin" today is the Bible, which reminds us of our daily need for cleansing.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word."

- Ephesians 5:25,26

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

- John 15:3

What was the purpose of making the basin from mirrors?

- When you washed, you were reminded of your nature.

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

- James 1:23,24

- When you washed, you remembered your past.

- When you washed, you were reminded of your partial understanding here on earth.

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

- 1 Corinthians 13:12

Lessons We Learn

1. Baptism is an important element in our relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Daily Scripture reading and the confession of sin are important to stay in fellowship with Our Lord.

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