

The Bronze Basin

Exo 30:17 Then the LORD said to Moses,

Exo 30:18 "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.

Exo 30:19 Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it.

Exo 30:20 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 a food offering to the LORD,

Exo 30:21 they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die. This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come."

The bronze basin (laver) in Exodus 30:17-21 symbolizes the need for purification before approaching God, pointing to New Testament the realities of sanctification, baptism, and the cleansing work of Christ. While the altar provided salvation, the basin signifies daily, ongoing sanctification through the Word and Spirit, fulfilling the priestly role in believers' lives.

The Key Connections to the New Testament:

- **Ongoing Sanctification:** Just as priests washed daily to avoid death, believers are cleansed once by salvation but need daily purification from sin's defilement.
- **Washing by the Word:** The basin represents the "washing of water by the word" mentioned in Ephesians 5:26, where Scripture cleanses the believer.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Eph 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Eph 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

- **Baptism and Cleansing:** The Bronze Basin points to baptism and the inward cleaning of the heart (1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5).

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1Pe 3:19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits--

1Pe 3:20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

1Pe 3:21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1Pe 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Tit 3:4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

Tit 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Tit 3:6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Tit 3:7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

- **Christ's Example:** [John 13:5-10](#) depicts Jesus washing the disciples' feet, symbolizing the spiritual cleansing necessary for fellowship and service.

John 13:2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

John 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

John 13:4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

John 13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

John 13:7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

John 13:8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

John 13:9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

John 13:10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

John 13:11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

- **Preparation for Service:** The basin's placement between the altar and the tabernacle indicates that after being justified (altar), one must be sanctified (basin) to serve in God's presence (tabernacle).

The basin, made from mirrors (Exodus 38:8), also highlights self-reflection and the need for repentance.

Making the Bronze Basin

Exo 38:8 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.