

SEPTUAGINT, B.C. 280:

English, ver. 10:

"And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean."

Ver. 14:

"Then went he down and baptized himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God, and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

The question is, How did Naaman, in obedience to the man of God, baptize himself at the Jordan? I answer, he sprinkled the water upon the part affected, as the law of God required. Now for the proof. Naaman was a leper, and the prophet, being a man of God, would command him to do what the law of God required for the cleansing of the leprosy. What was that? Turn up Lev. 14:7: "He shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy *seven times*, and shall pronounce him clean." Mark carefully the important bearing on the argument, of the expression "*seven times*." Baptists tell us there was "*a bathing*" in connection with cleansing from leprosy. That is true, but as we shall show by and by, ceremonial bathing was never by plunging into water, and it was done but *once* in connection with leprosy. Naaman baptized himself *seven times*, and the law of God (Lev. 14) did not require *anything to be done seven times but the sprinkling*. Therefore Naaman's baptizing himself seven times was his sprinkling the part affected by the leprosy seven times as the law of God required. And so the first Bible baptism is clearly a baptism by sprinkling. But there are other considerations putting the mode of Naaman's baptism beyond all doubt.