

Introduction: Ritual Baths and Ritual Purity, the Last Fifty Years . . . . .	17
Chapter One: Misleading Use of Terminology: The “miqveh,” “bet tevilah,” and other “Ritual Baths” . . . . .	32
Chapter Two: The Evolving, Non-Monolithic “Ritual Bath” . . . . .	45
Chapter Three: Pre-Rabbinic, Non-Rabbinic, and Rabbinic Ritual Immersion Practices in the Making . . . . .	56
Divided Stairways, Dual Entrances, and Sectarian Viewpoints . . . . .	56
“Nişsoq,” Double Pools, and the “Oşar” . . . . .	62
Views from Qumran and the Rabbis . . . . .	73
Conclusion . . . . .	103
Chapter Four: Did the Author of P. Oxyrhynchus 840 Know What a “Miqveh” Was? . . . . .	104
Introduction . . . . .	104
The Exchange between “the Savior” and the High Priest . . . . .	106
Running, Natural, and “Living” Waters . . . . .	110
Split Stairways do not Make a “Miqveh” Either . . . . .	113
Spiritual Perceptions of Water in Antiquity and the Meaning of the Fragment . . . . .	122
a) Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Views . . . . .	123
b) From Jeremiah to the Rabbis . . . . .	130
c) Spiritualizing Water: From the Late Second Temple Period to the Gospel of John . . . . .	137
d) P. Oxyrhynchus 840 and Jewish Ritual Immersion . . . . .	146
Conclusion . . . . .	151
Chapter Five: Further Observations on Stone Vessel Finds and Ritual Purity in Light of Talmudic Sources . . . . .	153
Conclusion . . . . .	180
Chapter Six: The Stepped Pools of the Western Acropolis at Sepphoris . . . . .	184
Chapter Seven: Understanding the Pools: Biblical Perceptions of Purity and the Habitus of the Jews of <i>'Ereş Israel</i> . . . . .	198

Chapter Eight: Domestic Judaism and the “Well-Ordered Bayit:”	
Who Bathed/Immersed in the Stepped Pools at Sepphoris and Why? . . .	210
Introduction . . . . .	210
Popular Devotion to Ritual Purity Practices: The Rabbis’ Perspective . . .	213
Hand Washing before Eating . . . . .	215
Bodily Immersion and Sexuality . . . . .	223
Popular Perceptions of Water . . . . .	230
The Primary Locus of Ritual Purity Rites after 70 C. E.:	
The Home, Family, and the Larger Community of Israel . . . . .	241
 Chapter Nine: Priests, Purities, and the Jews of Roman and Late	
Antique Galilee— Rethinking the Priests of Sepphoris and the <i>Mishmarot</i>	249
Introduction . . . . .	249
Priests at Sepphoris . . . . .	252
Priests at Tiberias . . . . .	260
Priestly Memory, Identity, and Concerns in Galilee . . . . .	266
Ritual Bathing and Priests . . . . .	279
The Priests, the People, and the Synagogue . . . . .	283
Some Conclusions and Questions worth Pursuing . . . . .	292
 Chapter Ten: Non-Rabbinic Ritual Immersion Practices	
in Post-Talmudic Sources . . . . .	297
 Chapter Eleven: From Stepped Pools to <i>Miqva’ot</i>	
and the Society that Produced Them . . . . .	307
Concluding Thoughts . . . . .	324
 Postscript: From Roman Galilee to Nineteenth-Century Chesterfield,	
Connecticut . . . . .	332
 List of Figures . . . . .	343
 Bibliography . . . . .	344
 Index of Primary Sources . . . . .	378
 Index of Places . . . . .	394
 Index of Foreign Terms, Phrases, and Expressions . . . . .	398
 Index of Subjects . . . . .	408