

# YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN – THE NEW BIRTH JOHN 3:1-16

What does Jesus say about the new birth / being born again?

## 1. The new birth is a **necessary** birth!

**John 3:1** There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: **John 3:2** The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these **miracles** (τὰ σημεῖα) that thou doest, except God be with him. **John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again (ἄνωθεν), he cannot see the kingdom of God.** **John 3:4** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **John 3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** **John 3:7** Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again (ἄνωθεν).**

### Nicodemus was:

- a pharisee
- ruler of the Jews
- teacher in Israel
- very polite
- observant – meaning he saw & understood the obvious!

Strangely, Jesus don't carry on with polite conversation but goes right to the heart of the matter!

- **Born again – from above: 2 legitimate uses of this word and it seems that this is a double entendre / double use... so born again – from above!**

**John 3:31** He that cometh from above (Ὁ ἄνωθεν) is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

**John 19:11** Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee **from above (ἄνωθεν)**: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

**John 19:23** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven **from the top (ἄνωθεν)** throughout.

**James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is **from above (ἄνωθεν)**, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**James 3:15** This wisdom descendeth not **from above (ἄνωθεν)**, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

**James 3:17** But the wisdom that is **from above (ἄνωθεν)** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

(see also Mt. 27:51; Mk 15:38; Luke 1:3; Acts 26:5; Gal. 4:9)

- **Without the new birth / being born again from above we cannot see the kingdom of God!**

**We can see but not what's important!**

**John 8:37** I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. **John 8:38** I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. **John 8:39** They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. **John 8:40** But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. **John 8:41** Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. **John 8:42** Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. **John 8:43** **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.** **John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. **John 8:45** And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

**John 10:27** My sheep **hear** my voice, and I **know** them, and they **follow** me:

- **And we cannot enter the kingdom of God!**

## 2. The new birth is **not** the old birth / first birth!

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

**John 3:4** Nicodemus saith unto him, **How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?**

**John 3:5 Jesus answered,** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born **of water** (ἐξ ὕδατος) **and of the Spirit** (καὶ πνεύματος), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**John 3:6 That** which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born **of the Spirit** (ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος) is spirit (πνεῦμά).

Nicodemus's reply: Huh?

So, born again from above – go back...?

**Born of water = out of water**

**Born of the Spirit = out of the Spirit / from above**

**3:4 the question**

**3:5 the answer**

**3:6 the explanation**

**Both are necessary.**

**Without the second we cannot see or enter the kingdom of God!**

### **3. The new birth is a miraculous birth!**

**John 3:8 The wind** (Τὸ πνεῦμα) bloweth where it listeth (ὅπου θέλει πνεῖ), **and** thou hearest the sound thereof, **but** canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so** is every one that is born **of the Spirit** (ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος).

(πνεῦμα): wind, breath, & Spirit

(Π·Ι·Γ): wind, breath, & Spirit

**See Ezekiel 37 (start with 37:8-10)**

### **4. The new birth is not a new teaching!**

**John 3:9** Nicodemus answered and said unto him, **How can these things be?**

**John 3:10** Jesus answered and said unto him, **Art thou a master** (διδάσκαλος τοῦ Ἰσραήλ) **of Israel, and knowest not these things?**

**John 3:11** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

**John 3:12** If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? **John 3:13** And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

**Isaiah 44:3** For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, And floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, And my blessing upon thine offspring: **Isaiah 44:4** And they shall spring up as among the grass, As willows by the water courses.

**Ezekiel 11:19** And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

**Ezekiel 36:26** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

### **5. The new birth is connected to looking & believing!**

**John 3:14** And **as** Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **even so must** the Son of man be lifted up: **John 3:15** That whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.