

The Gospel of John

Lesson 3: *Born Again* John 3 (27 April 26AD)

John 3:1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named **Nicodemus** who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at **night** and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can **see** the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**."

4 "How can someone be born when they are **old**?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's **womb** to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of **water** and the **Spirit**. 6 **Flesh** gives birth to **flesh**, but the **Spirit** gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be **surprised** at my saying, 'You must be **born again**.' 8 The **wind** blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with **everyone** born of the Spirit."

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and **do you not understand** these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still **you people do not accept our testimony**. 12 I have spoken to you of **earthly things** and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 **No one has ever gone into heaven** except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 **Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness**, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may **have eternal life** in him."

16 For God so loved the world **that** he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, **but to save the world through him**. 18 Whoever believes in him is not **condemned**, but whoever does not believe stands **condemned** already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but **people loved darkness** instead of light because their **deeds were evil**. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever **lives by the truth** comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and **baptized**. 23 Now John also was **baptizing** at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being **baptized**. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain **Jew** over the matter of **ceremonial washing**. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is **baptizing**, and everyone is going to him."

27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. **That joy is mine, and it is now complete**. 30 He must become greater; I must become less."

31 The one who comes from above is **above all**; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and **speaks as one from the earth**. The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to **what he has seen and heard**, but no one **accepts** his testimony. 33 Whoever has **accepted** it has certified that God is truthful. 34 For the one whom God has sent **speaks the words of God**, for God gives the Spirit **without limit**. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed **everything in his hands**. 36 Whoever believes in the Son **has eternal life**, but whoever rejects the Son **will not see life**, for God's wrath **remains** on them.

Jesus teaches Nicodemus

John 3:1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named **Nicodemus** who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. (**Nicodemus' son negotiated with the Romans for the end of the AD66-70 war.**) 2 He came to Jesus at **night** (**Night = uninterrupted conversation - not fear**) and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." (**Nicodemus is looking for Physical Kingdom of Messiah - Jesus shows him spiritual kingdom. Disciples see Spiritual kingdom after Acts 2. Outsiders see a church building, Insiders see a Spiritual body of believers.**)

Acts 1:6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, **are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy **Spirit** comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can **see** the kingdom of God (**New Creation hope**) unless they are **born again**." (**Born again/above - in the resurrection but also in the now.**)

Matthew 18:3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become **like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 "How can someone be born when they are **old**?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's **womb** to be born!" (**How can a grown man be born again? To womb? or just to change?**)

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of **water** and the **Spirit**. (**Birth through body fluids and then Spirit - rejects gnosticism. Repentance with Baptism water and Spirit - contrasts flesh and spirit - only Spirit can change us.**) 6 **Flesh** gives birth to **flesh**, but the **Spirit** gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be **surprised** at my saying, 'You must be **born again**.' 8 The **wind** (**Wind = Spirit**) blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. (**Physical corresponds to spiritual - We see effects of the invisible and of the Spirit**) So it is with **everyone** born of the Spirit." (**You don't know where God will take you. You are sovereignly chosen by God.**)

Jesus enlightens Nicodemus

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and **do you not understand** these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still **you people do not accept our testimony**. 12 I have spoken to you of **earthly things** (**What earthly things?**) and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 **No one has ever gone into heaven** (**None ever went to heaven**) except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 **Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness**, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may **have eternal life** in him." (**We obtain eternal life now.**)

Numbers 21:4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no

bread! There is no water! And we **detest** this miserable food!" 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 The LORD said to Moses, "**Make a snake and put it up on a pole**; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So **Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole**. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Isaiah 52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; **he will be raised and lifted up** and highly exalted.

Genesis 40:1 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. 4 The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, 5 each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. 6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?" 8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." 9 So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, 10 and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. 11 Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand." 12 "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. 13 Within three days Pharaoh will **lift up your head** and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. 14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15 I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon." 16 When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. 17 In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head." 18 "This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days. 19 Within three days Pharaoh will **lift off your head** and impale your body on a pole. And the birds will eat away your flesh." 20 Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. **He lifted up the heads** of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand— 22 but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. 23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world **that** he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish (We do not die spiritually)** but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, **but to save the world through him. (Christ's purpose is to save)** 18 Whoever believes in him is not **condemned**, but whoever does not believe stands **condemned** already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **(We are judged by our belief)** 19 This is the verdict: Light **(Jesus is this light. Not only in 6 B.C.-27AD)** has come into the world, but **people loved darkness** instead of light because their **deeds were evil**. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever **lives by the truth** comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. **(Who came to Jesus (the light) when he walked this earth?)**

Genesis 22:1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "**Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice** him there as a burnt **offering** on a mountain I will show you." 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but **where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**" 8 Abraham answered, "**God himself will provide the lamb** for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him **on the altar**, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to **slay his son**. 11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me **your son, your only son.**" 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a **ram** caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and **sacrificed** it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld **your son, your only son,** 17 I will surely bless you and make your **descendants as numerous as the stars** in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,** because you have obeyed me." 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

John 3:22 After this, **(Saturday 27 April 26AD)** Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and **baptized**. 23 Now John also was **baptizing** at Aenon near Salim **(60 miles north of Jerusalem and just south of Beth Shan in the northern part of the Samaritan part of Judea)**, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being **baptized**. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain **Jew** over the matter of **ceremonial washing**. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is **baptizing**, and everyone is going to him." **(What's the difference between John's and Jesus' baptisms?)**

27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. **That joy is mine, and it is now complete.** 30 He must become greater; I must become less." **(John's followers should be glad at Jesus' success. John is a transition prophet between OT and NT.)**

31 The one who comes from above is **above all; (Jesus is greater than all - Buddha, spirits, Mohammad, etc.)** the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and **speaks as one from the earth. (all the others spoke only of the earth)** The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to **what he has seen and heard, (Jesus saw heaven)** but no one **accepts** his testimony. 33 Whoever has **accepted** it **(Those who believe/trust are accepted)** has certified that God is truthful. **(Believers attest to the Truth of God. Believers trust Him)** 34 For the one whom God has sent **speaks the words of God, (Jesus speaks God's words)** for God gives the Spirit **without limit. (OT received measured)** 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed **everything in his hands. (We receive fullness because Jesus had access to all - Jesus has all power)** 36 Whoever believes in the Son **has ("Has," not "will have" the Spirit and eternal life)** eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son **will not see life, (Can not see kingdom of God)** for God's wrath **remains** on them. **(Remains - they already are condemned.)**

Matthew 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ...**

7:7 **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:**