

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes
Chapter 3 PT. 1: The New Birth

John 3:1-21

Verses 1-2

John 3:1-2 (NASB) – “¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ² this man **came to Jesus at night** and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”

Question: Who is the Pharisee that gets special mention by the Apostle John?

Answer: Nicodemus-(Greek)- *nikē*” (victory) and “*dēmos*” (people)-Victory of the people.

Understanding: Nicodemus is only mentioned in the Gospel of John, and he is mentioned 3 times. He is not mentioned in the Synoptic Gospels at all.

- He is mentioned here in **John 3, John 7, and John 19.**
- In **John 7:50-51**, he defends Jesus by stating that Jewish law states that a person cannot be condemned without first being heard.
- In **John 19:39-42**, he helps Joseph of Arimathea in laying Jesus’ body in the tomb.



Question: Why “At Night”?

Answer: When approaching this question, you should always remember, John’s “Why” or his target audience. Remember what John states himself! It is clearly stated near the end of this Epistle in **John 20:30-31**.

John 20:30-31 (NASB) – “³⁰ So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that **you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name.**”

Full Answer: No one knows, but there are multiple theories.

- Because he had rulership over Jews and believed to be a part of the Jewish Sanhedrin, he had to come in the cover of night.
- At night he could speak with Jesus uninterrupted when Jesus was not so busy or,
- Because it was due to the custom of a Rabbi to stay up very late to study.

Key: Again, no one knows! But John, even writing this Epistle, is playing a role in Nicodemus’ life, whether intended or not. Make note of this: Religion is encountering Truth!

Verse 3

John 3:3 (NASB) – “Jesus responded and said to him, ‘**Truly, truly**, I say to you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”



Understanding: Jesus make this statement after Nicodemus get his identity wrong!

- “You...come from God *as* a teacher”.
- “God is with [you]”.

Key: The Revelation here is that Jesus is letting Nicodemus know, “You can’t really know who I am without salvation” - “Born Again”!

- Nicodemus did not say, “**we think**”.
- Nicodemus said, “**Rabbi, we know**”.

Note: Many miss this! Jesus was giving Nicodemus a nice rebuke.

“**Truly, truly**”-(**Aramaic**)-comes from the Aramaic word "Amen," signifies a solemn declaration of truth, a personal guarantee from Jesus that His statements are the only absolute truth and they are trustworthy.

- Jesus is leading with “**AMEN**”!
- But not to what Nicodemus is saying, but to what He is **about** to say!

The Flesh vs. The Spirit

Verses 4-6

John 3:4-6 (NASB) – “⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?’ ⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and *the* Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which has been **born of the flesh is flesh**, and that which has been born of the **Spirit is spirit.**’”

Key: Jesus is saying to Nicodemus that he cannot understand what He is saying if he is **not** in the Spirit!

Verses 7-8

John 3:7-8 (NASB) – “⁷ Do not be **amazed** that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.”



“Amazed”/Marvel-(KJV)-(Greek)-*haumázō*-to wonder, to be wondered at, to be had in admiration.

Remember: In Verse 6, you cannot understand spiritual things with a carnal mind! “I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”.

Important: In Verse 8, the same word (*pneuma*) signifies both the wind and the Spirit.



- The Spirit came upon the apostles in **Acts 2:2**, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- The Spirit's influence on the hearts of sinners is compared to the breathing of the wind **Ezekiel 37:9 (KJV)** – “Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”

The Synoptic Gospels: Matthew 8:27, Mark 4:41, and Luke 8:25

Matthew 8:27 (NASB) - “But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!”



Key: What the disciples did not understand was that the very thing Jesus said “peace, be still” to, HE controls!

Psalms 148:8 (AMP) – “Lightning and hail, snow and fog; Stormy wind, fulfilling His orders;”



Verses 9-10

John 3:9-10 (NASB) – “⁹ Nicodemus responded and said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘**You are the teacher of Israel,** and *yet* you do not understand these things?’”



Key: Jesus gives us a truth that should blow our minds! Knowing the scriptures **does not** mean you understand what you know!

- You can profess the doctrine of Christ in general, but not believe the truths of Christianity and not live it in your daily life.
- Nor submit to the laws of it further than *you please*. (**Post Truth Age: Age of Preference.**)
- With preference, scripture can be your teacher, provided you get to **choose** the lessons you follow.

Verses 11-12

John 3:11-12 (NASB) – “¹¹ **Truly, truly**, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you *people* do not accept our testimony. ¹² If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

“Truly, truly”-(Aramaic)-comes from the Aramaic word "Amen," signifies a solemn declaration of truth, a personal guarantee from Jesus that His statements are the only absolute truth and they are trustworthy.

Question: Who is the “**we**”?

Answer: The “we” is speaking to those who witness from Heaven - the Father and Holy Spirit. The Father was with him, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him; therefore, He speaks in the plural.

NEVER FORGET: The Testimony of John the Baptist (**John 1:32-34**); Jesus, Holy Spirit and Father are One!

Verse 13

John 3:13 (NASB) – “No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.”



Note: Jesus is speaking to His own Omniscience, which means “all-knowing”. Yeshua is making it clear in **Verse 13** that He is **the only one** whose knowledge and understanding is total! There is NOTHING He doesn’t know!

Verses 14-15

John 3:14-15 (NASB) – “¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.”

Note: Emphasizes the comparison that Christ came to save us, by *healing* us, as the brazen serpent healed the Israelites in the desert.



Numbers 21:7-9 (AMP) – “⁷ So the people came to Moses, and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD, so that He will remove the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery *serpent* [of bronze] and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten will live when he looks at it.’ ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it on the pole, and it happened that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.”

Note: This was the last miracle done at through the hands of Moses before he died!
The cross Jesus’ last miracle before HIS death!

Verse 16

Key: By far, the most popular and widely displayed scripture in the BIBLE.

John 3:16 (NASB) – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.”

Translated best in the King James Version (KJV):

John 3:16 (KJV) – “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.”

God-(Greek)-*theos*-a god, a general name of deities or divinities. the Godhead, trinity, God the Father, the first person in the three-person Godhead, Christ, the

second person of the three-person Godhead, Holy Spirit, the third person in the three-person Godhead.



Question: Who gave?

Answer: The Father

Key: Yeshua/Jesus is the Father's love for this World on display! This is the simplicity of the Gospel! This great and unconditional love is the origin of our regeneration by Holy Spirit.

Verses 17-18

John 3:17-18 (NASB) – “¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Understanding: Jesus did not come to judge you, your unbelief brings the judgement.

Question: Did you know you have Help to believe?

Answer: Yes, you do! This is one of the roles of Holy Spirit.



John 16:7-9 (NASB) – “⁷...the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: ⁹ regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me;”

Understanding: This passage should terrify everyone that thinks they can keep sinning and it’s going to be ok!

This Is What Jesus Said To The Disciples Who Return To The World:

John 15:22 (NASB) - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Two Things To Note:

- They rejected the Help (Conviction) of Holy Spirit
- They preferred sin.

Verses 19-20

John 3:19-20 (NASB) – “¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed.”



CAN YOU SAY ...PREFERENCE!

Question: How many can access the Light of the world but prefer darkness?

Answer: Everyone that:

- Has a Bible but will not read it!
- Has access to Learn of Jesus but rejects Discipleship/Teaching.
- Feels the conviction of Holy Spirit but rejects it.

Verse 21

John 3:21 (NASB) – “²¹ But the one who **practices** the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in God.”

Practices-Doeth (KJV)-(Greek)-*poiéō*-bring forth, fulfil, work, commit.

Psalms 119:105 (NASB) – “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

Choose Today To Follow The Light

The End