

John 3

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1793-1847



Nicodemus

- Pharisee (3:1) = separated one—legalist, focused on external observance of laws & traditions
- ruler of the Jews (3:1; 7:50) = member of the Sanhedrin (the Council)
 - Jewish supreme court; met in the Temple
 - 70 priests, elders, scribes, lawyers + the high priest
 - The final authority on Jewish law & interpretation
- “the” teacher of Israel (3:10)

The Kingdom of God

- 3:3—see the kingdom of God
- 3:5—enter the kingdom of God
- 3:3, 7—born again (born from above)
- 3:16—have eternal (everlasting) life
- 3:17—be saved

Why “born again”?

1. It is not a reformation. It is a radical transformation that makes you an entirely new person.
2. It is not something that happens gradually. Birth happens at a particular point in time.
3. It is not something you can do for yourself (1 Peter 1:3).

Born of Water?

- John 1—water associated with John’s baptism for repentance
- John 2—water (turned to wine) associated with the joy of a wedding
- John 3—water of new birth
- John 4—living water that forever quenches thirst
- John 5—water associated with healing

Born of Water?—Theories

- Water symbolizes baptism (but see Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 23:42-43; 1 Corinthians 1:13, 14, 17).
- Water symbolizes physical birth (but see John 3:5-6).
- Water symbolizes the Scripture (Ephesians 5:26; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23).

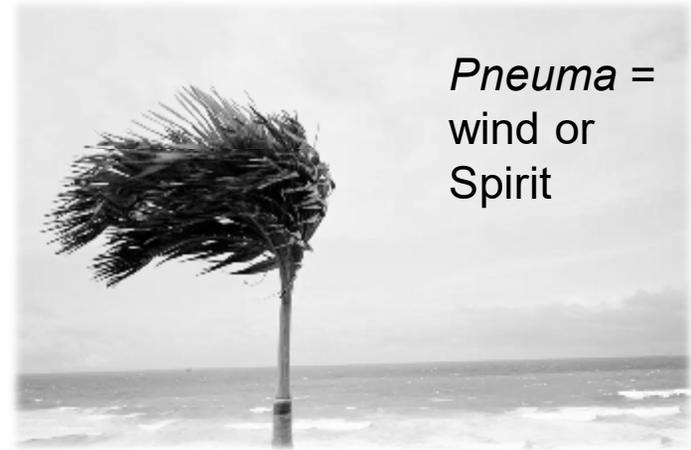
Born of Water?—Theories

- Water symbolizes repentance. Water in the Old Testament usually refers to renewal or cleansing. Fits this context.
 - Numbers 19:17-19 (water of purification)
 - Psalm 51:2, 10 (Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. . . . Create in me a clean heart, O God.)

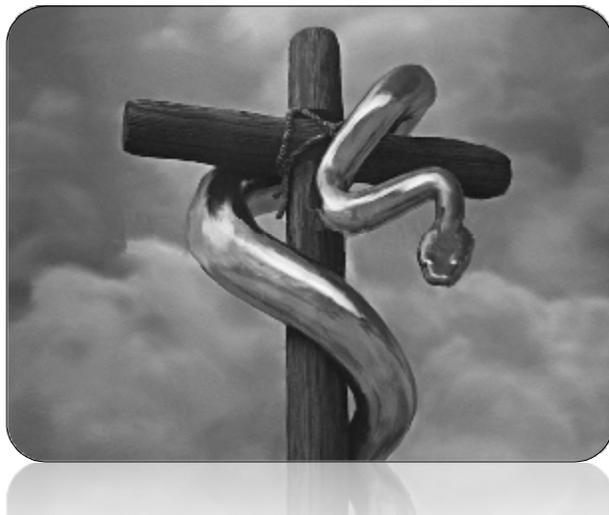
Born of Water?—Theories

- Water symbolizes repentance.
 - Ezekiel 36:25-27 (Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean. . . . 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. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.)

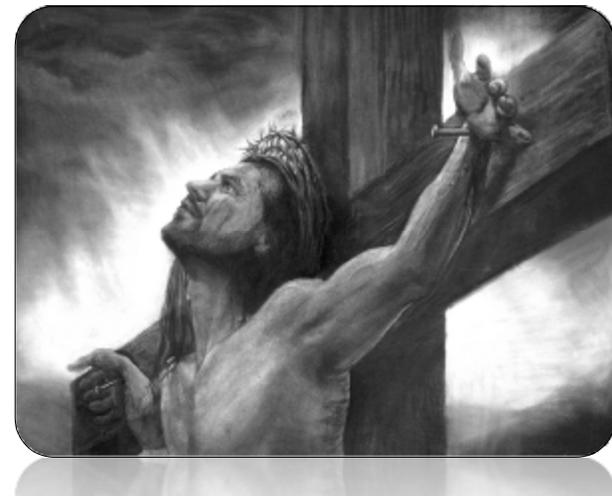
You can't see the wind or the Spirit.



The Serpent in the Wilderness



“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM” (John 8:28).



The New Birth

- Is mandatory (3:3, 7).
- Has nothing to do with anything physical (3:6).
- Happens at a point in time (3:3, 7).
- Is a spiritual birth, accomplished by the Holy Spirit (3:6).
- Is mysterious (3:8).

The New Birth

- Is not complicated or difficult (3:14-15).
- Requires putting your trust in Jesus as the remedy for your sin (3:14-15).
- Was planned by God the Father and carried out by God the Son because God loves you and doesn't want you to perish (3:16-17).

The New Birth

- Is dangerous to postpone (3:18).



- Requires truth on your part (3:21).

He must increase; I must decrease.



John the Baptist Says about Jesus:

- He is from above [heaven] (3:31).
- He is above all (3:31).
- He testifies to what He has seen & heard (3:32).
- His testimony is true, though often rejected (3:32-33).

John the Baptist Says about Jesus:

- He speaks God's words (3:34).
- He has unlimited access to God's Spirit (3:34).
- He receives the Father's love (3:35).
- He acts for the Father (3:35).
- He is the source of eternal life (3:36).

John 3:36

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.