

# NICODEMUS COMES TO JESUS BY NIGHT

## Quote:

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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:5-6

## Money Changers

Mark above or below John 2

These came about because the Jews required that the yearly temple tribute be paid in exact half shekels. "Money changers" were set up to exchange foreign currency and give locals the exact required half shekel. This was at a cost, and netted the Money Changers an "immense sum".

When an animal was brought to the temple to be offered, it had first to be examined to determine if it was 'fit' to be offered, and this often led to disputes. The training of an examiner took up to 15 months. A common charge for examination was 4-6 Isar (1 1/4 - 2 Pennies) - 1-2 days labour (Matt 20:2). Therefore to avoid the cost and possible rejection, markets were set up inside the Temple enclosure, by which advantage was taken of the poor people who came to offer sacrifices. Prices for a couple of pigeons (an offering for the poor) were as much as a gold Denar (15 Shillings, 3 Pennies - NOTE: there are 12 pennies in a shilling), whereupon the Simeon, grandson of Hillel intervened forcing the price down to a quarter of a silver Denar (2 Pennies - a 99% price cut). These markets were in time controlled by Annas (the High Priest) and became known as the Bazaars of Annas.

See The Life and Times of Jesus Messiah, Edersheim Bk 3, p368-370

## John 3:1-21 - Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Colour the following key words for the section of John 3:1-21:

**"born"** (Gk 'gennao' - 8x) - v3,4(2x), 5, 6(2x), 7, 8

**"spirit"** (Gk 'pneuma' - 5x) - v5, 6(2x), 8(2x - "wind" & "spirit")

**"believe"** (Gk 'pisteuo' - 7x) - v12(2x), 15, 16 ("believeth"), 18(3x - "believeth"(2x) & "believed").

**"man"** (Gk 'anthropos' - 5x) - v1, 4, 13(2nd), 14, 19 (There are other Greek words translated "man"- don't colour them)

**"Light"** (Gk - 'phos' - 5x) - v19(2x), 20(2x), 21

**"World"** (Gk 'kosmos' - 5x) - v16, 17(3x), 19

### Born of Water and the Spirit (John 3:5) Mark above or below John 2-3

This speaks of a process by which the unrighteous (1 Cor 6:9) become constituted righteous (Rom 5:18-19) and finally undergo a change from flesh and blood (1 Cor 15:50) to spirit nature.

#### **Birth of Water (A result of the moral power of the truth):**

Adoption into the the Mortal Family of God, by which we manifest the moral characteristics of the Father.

Begins when the Father causes His Word to enter a person's heart and arouse their interest producing a new understanding (1 Pet 1:23; Jas 1:18) and repentance resulting in baptism (Acts

3:19; Rom 6:1-7,17). Those baptised are like newborn babes (Tit 3:5; 1 Pet 2:1-2) and manifest a changed way of life (1 Cor 6:9-11) and are required to "walk worthy of the vocation," or calling, "wherewith he has been called" (Eph. 4:1), that by so doing he may be "accounted worthy" of being "born of spirit".

### **Birth of the Spirit (by the physical power of the Spirit):**

Adoption into the Immortal Family of God, by which we manifest the physical immortality of the Father.

A change from flesh and blood, to spirit nature (Jn 3:6) or a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:44,46,51-53; Phil 3:21; Rom 8:23).

See Elpis Israel p 135-36 (14th Ed); 137-139 (4th Ed)

## Verse by Verse Marking

**John 3:7** - "**born again**" - Gk = "born from above" both here and in v3 - circle this in your centre margin for v3 and 7.

**John 3:8** - "**wind**" - Gk 'pneuma' = "spirit".

**"bloweth"** - Means to breathe or blow.

**"listeth"** - Means to be resolved or determined, to purpose.

**"canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth"** - Similar to Jn 8:14.

**"whence it cometh"** - Jesus came from God - speaks of his divine origin through the Spirit. This was evident in his words (Jn 8:26,38,40)

**"whither it goeth"** - ie He went to divine spirit nature and immortal fellowship with the Father via the humiliation of the cross (see Jn 13:13,36; 14:2,12,28; 16:20,22).

**"so is every one that is born of the Spirit"** - ie This is the pattern for all who would be born of the spirit. Their origin is the Spirit, implanted in them, and they are complete when perfected in divine nature having been developed through suffering and identification with Christ.

Literal meaning of v8: "The Spirit breathes where he pleases, and thou hearest his voice, but thou knowest not whence he comes, and whither he leads; in like manner is every one being begotten of the spirit." - Bro Thomas Herald of the Kingdom and Age to Come 1853 p56

**John 3:16** - "**Whosoever**" - ie Jew or Gentile.

Mark above or below John 3

## As Moses Lifted Up the Serpent (John 3:14-16)

- The brazen serpent (Reps flesh, but harmless and unresisting) - Types Christ - sinless bearer of our serpent-nature, who willingly submitted to the death of the cross.
- Lifted up on a pole by Moses (the custodian of the Law of Moses - Num 21:6-9) - likewise the custodians of the law would take Christ and lift him up (John 12:32-35) - crucifying him.
- The brazen serpent was necessitated by a state of things that came about through disobedience to divine commands. So Christ was provided by God because of the affects brought about by Adam's transgression (Rom 5:12).
- Deliverance from the serpent bite was brought about by looking in faith to the serpent on the pole. Typical of the deliverance that comes through identification (baptism - born of water) with the crucified Christ. This deliverance is unto eternal life (being born of the Spirit). See Jn 3:15.
- In the wilderness God showed his love in providing a means of salvation that was outside the provisions of the Law of Moses. Typical of the loving provision of Christ (Jn 3:16).

Mark above or below John 3

## Four Fundamental Jewish Errors Corrected:

1. The Jews placed great confidence in being Abraham's natural seed (Jn 8:33). Jesus taught the need to be born of water (by which one becomes Abraham's seed - Jn 8:39; Gal 3:26-29).
2. The Jews believed that the Christ would never die (Jn 12:32-34). Christ showed he would be lifted up (Jn 3:14).
3. The Jews thought salvation was by works of the Law (Lk 18:11). Christ showed the need for faith (Jn 3:15).
4. The Jews thought Christ would come as a judge. This he will do - at his second advent (see Jn 3:17-19).