**John 3:1-21 – You Must Be Born Again**

You Must Be Born Again

**3**Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2**This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” **3**Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**4**Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” **5**Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7**Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8**The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

**9**Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10**Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11**Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12**If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13**No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15**that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God So Loved the World

**16**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18**Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19**And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20**For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21**But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

**Discussion Questions**

1. v3 – Reflection: How does v5 help us understand what Jesus meant when He said “unless one is born again”?
2. v7-8 –Reflection: What does Jesus mean when He says “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.”? Is being born again in human control? Consider Genesis 3:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-9
3. v10 –What should Israel’s teachers have known? Consider Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3:1-7, Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 29:4, Ezekiel 11:19-20, Ezekiel 36:22-27, Jeremiah 31:31-34
4. v13 – Reflection: How does verse 13 relate to verse 12?
5. v14 – What is Jesus referring to here? Consider Numbers 21:4-9
6. v17 – Why would the world need to be saved? Consider Genesis 6:1-4, Genesis 11:1-9, Deuteronomy 32:7-8, Luke 4:5-7, Ephesians 2:1-3
7. v18-21 – Reflection: What do you see in Jesus’ words? Consider Genesis 3:15a

**Notes**

**2**. Genesis 2:8-9 **8**And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+3&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-64c" \o "See footnote c)] of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?**”

Ephesians 2:8-9 **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9**not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**3.** Genesis 2: **15**The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **16**And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,**17**but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2&version=ESV#fen-ESV-48d)] of it you shall surely **die**.”

Genesis 3:1-7 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+3&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-57a" \o "See footnote a)] shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”**2**And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3**but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4**But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.**5**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+3&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-62b" \o "See footnote b)] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**7**Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+12&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-300a" \o "See footnote a)] to Abram, “Go from your country[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-300b)] and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2**And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3**I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Ezekiel 11:19-20 **19**And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, **20**that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 36:22-27 **22**“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. **23**And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. **24**I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. **25**I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. **26**And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27**And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 **31**“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32**not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **33**For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**34**And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

**5.** Numbers 21:4-9 **4**From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. **5**And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” **6Then the Lord sent fiery serpents [*nachash*] among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.** **7**And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. **8**And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” **9**So Moses made a bronze[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=numbers+21&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-4350c" \o "See footnote c)] serpent and set it on a pole. **And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.**

**6.** Genesis 6:1-4 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them,**2**the **sons of God** saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. **3**Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide inman forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” **4**The Nephilimwere on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Genesis 11:1-9 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. **2**And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. **3**And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. **4**Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” **5**And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. **6**And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. **7**Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” **8**So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.**9**Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Deuteronomy 32:7-8 **7**Remember the days of old;  
    consider the years of many generations;  
ask your father, and he will show you,  
    your elders, and they will tell you.  
**8**When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,  
    when he divided mankind,  
he fixed the borders[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=deuteronomy+32&version=ESV#fen-ESV-5767a)] of the peoples  
    according to the number of the **sons of God**.

Luke 4:5-7 **5**And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, **6**and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. **7**If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2**in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3**among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**7.** Genesis 3:15a I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
    and between your offspring[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-71e)] and her offspring;