

- Born Again -
John 3:1-15

John 3:1-15 - Jesus, Nicodemus and the New Birth

Nicodemus the Pharisee
Nicodemus a 'ruler of the Jews'
"Night Time"
"The Kingdom of God"
"Unless one is born again"

1. 2 births, physical; spiritual.
2. The water speaks of Christian baptism
3. Jesus is referencing Ezekiel 36:25-27

The "Spirit" is consistently the author of life in God
(Genesis 2:7; 6:3; Job 34:14; Joel 2:28; John 3:5).

Water is used figuratively in the Old Testament to speak of cleansing (Numbers 19:17-19; Psalm 51:9-10; Jeremiah 2:13; Ezekiel 47:9; Zechariah 14:8).

Ezekiel speaks of this as a complete gift from God and then follows up in Ezekiel 37 with the vision of dry bones to illustrate what God does to bring 'dead people' to life.

- Thoughts on Regeneration -

1. The New Testament speaks of Regeneration in several ways: Matthew 19:28; Titus 3:5; John 1:3; 3:3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24; Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 2:13.
2. "Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us. This is sometimes called 'being born again.'" In the work of regeneration, we play no active role, it is totally a work of God. (John 1:13)
3. Being born of the Spirit is the co-work of the Father (Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 2:13; James 1:17-18; 1 Peter 1:3) and the Spirit (John 3:8)
4. Regeneration is instantaneous and it only happens once. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
5. Patterns of behavior change and our heart desires to please God. (1 John 2:29; 3:9)

Nicodemus' unbelief - John 3:10-12 - Unbelief is a blinding condition - 2 Corinthians 3:14 - Believing - John 3:13-15; Numbers 21:8-9

- Thoughts on Believing In Jesus -

Believing in Jesus Christ is the 'part' of being Born Again that I am responsible for.

1 John 5:1-5 - What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

First, believing in Jesus means that I believe in the Jesus who is revealed in God's Word

Second, believing in Jesus means that I love God and obey God's commandments.

"He does the begetting and you do the believing at the same instant."