

Steve Greenberg's Notes

Week 4 Sun Sept 27, 2026: John 3 Jesus Said You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-21 Jesus said: unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God

Jhn 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews (**member of the Sanhedrin**).

In the worlds terms Nicodemus had it made it, He was wealthy, educated, a ruler, great reputation, a leader he spent his life endeavoring to keep Gods law, a good religious person. If anyone was going to heaven, he should be a good candidate?

Jhn 19:39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds (**being very expensive, must have been a rich man**).

Jhn 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi (**Teacher**), we know (**beyond any doubt, there is clear evidence**) that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs (**miraculous wonders, attesting miracles**) that You do, unless God, is with him."

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

Act 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Jhn 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Jhn 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him(**Nicodemus**), "**Most assuredly, I say to you (this truth), unless one, is born again (reborn from above, transformed, born spiritually), he cannot (will never) see (or experience) the kingdom of God.**"

1Pet 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

1Jn 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

2Cor 4:4 whose minds the god of this age (**Satan**) has blinded (preventing truth from being seen), who do not believe (**stay unbelievers**), lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image (**exact likeness**) of God, should shine on them.

Jhn 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him(Jesus), "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jhn 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you (this truth), unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot (ever, ever) enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus says Nicodemus should have known these things, he was an expert on the Old Testament, so let's look into the Old Testament

Born of water and the Spirit refers to spiritual birth, which cleanses from sin and brings spiritual transformation. The background for water speaks of the new covenant.

Eze 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Eze 36:28 "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Eze 36:29 "I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.

Jhn 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Jhn 7:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

Heb 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1Jn 5:6 This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Jhn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Jhn 1:13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Born of water" some believe it refers to physical birth, as the protective liquid is brought forth from the mother's womb at birth.

Jhn 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh (Humans reproduce only human), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life) (The Greek for Spirit is the same as that for wind).

Jhn 3:7 "Do not marvel (or be surprised) that I said to you, 'You (Greek word is plural, You all) must be born again (reborn from above, transformed, born spiritually).'

The plural "you" carries a broad application to all people: everyone "must be born again

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

1John 3:9 AMP – No one who is born of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, because God's seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently] in him [who is born again--who is reborn from above--spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]; and he [who is born again] cannot habitually [live a life characterized by] sin, because he is born of God and longs to please Him.

Jhn 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit (you will not be able to figure it out or explain how it works, but it is true)."

Jesus is saying you don't understand everything about the wind, but you see its effects. That is just how it is with the birth of the Spirit.

Jhn 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him(Jesus), "How can these things be (or how is this possible)?"

Jhn 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Jhn 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him(Nicodemus), "Are you the teacher (a very good and well known teacher) of Israel, and do not know these things (Jesus is saying do you not understand what the Scriptures says)?

Deu 30:6 "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah--

Jer 31:32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jer 31:34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Jhn 3:11 "Most assuredly, I say to you (this truth, you is plural v7), We speak what We (absolutely) know and testify what We have (actually) seen (as eyewitnesses), and you do not receive (accept) Our witness (testimony).

Jhn 3:12 "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe (and accept) if I tell you heavenly things?

Jhn 3:13 "No one has ascended (or gone) to heaven (and returned) but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man (title Jesus used for himself) who is in heaven.

Eph 4:9 (Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended (from heaven) into the lower parts of the earth?

No one knows the mysteries of the kingdom of God

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Rom 11:34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"

Jhn 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the (bronze) serpent (on a pole) in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up (on the cross),

This is a type of the crucifixion (Numbers 21:7-9 below). Moses took the symbol of sin (serpent) and the symbol of judgment (brass) and put it upon a pole. All who looked upon it were healed of the poisonous snakebite. Those who didn't believe and look at it, acknowledging it would die.

Num 21:7 Therefore 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.

Num 21:8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

Num 21:9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Quote from David Guzik on Blue Letter Bible

- i. Serpents are often used as pictures of evil in the Bible ([Genesis 3:1-5](#) and [Revelation 12:9](#)). However, Moses' serpent in [Numbers 21](#) was made of bronze, and bronze is a metal associated with judgment in the Bible, because bronze is with fire, a picture of judgment.
- ii. So, a [bronze](#) serpent does speak of sin, but of sin judged. In the same way Jesus, who knew no sin became sin for us on the cross, and our sin was judged in Him. A bronze serpent is a picture of sin judged and dealt with.
- iii. We would have wanted to diminish our sense of sin, and put the image of a man up on the pole. Our image of man might represent "both good and bad" in man. But a serpent is more apparently sinful, and shows us our true nature and true need of salvation.
- iv. In addition, if the serpent lay horizontally on the vertical pole, it is easy to see how this also was a [visual](#) representation of the cross. However, many traditions show the serpent being wrapped around the pole, and this is the source for the ancient figure of healing and medicine — a serpent, wrapped around a pole.
- v. In the [Numbers 21:4-9](#) account, the people were saved not by [doing](#) anything, but by simply [looking](#) to the bronze serpent. They had to trust that something as seemingly foolish as looking at such a thing would be sufficient to save them, and surely, some perished because they thought it too foolish to do such a thing.
- vi. As it says in [Isaiah 45:22](#): [Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.](#) We might be willing to do a hundred things to earn our salvation, but God commands us to only trust in Him — to [look to](#) Him.

Jhn 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man (on the cross), then you will know, that I(Jesus) am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

Jhn 12:34 The people answered Him (Jesus), "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"(The crowd does not understand that Jesus is speaking about His approaching crucifixion and resurrection).

Jhn 3:15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (life after physical death).

Jhn 3:16 "For God (the Father) so loved the world that He gave His (One and) only begotten Son, that whoever believes (and trusts) in Him (as Savior) should not perish but have everlasting life.

1Jn 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

1Tim 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Jhn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Jhn 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn (judge) the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jesus does not condemn us; man is already condemned. Jesus came to save us, and He is right now praying to the Father on our behalf

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Mat 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Jhn 3:18 "He who believes in Him (as personal Savior and Lord) is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed (no neutral ground, to not make a decision means you are condemned by default) in the name of the only begotten Son of God (the only one who can save).

Is it so amazing we can be born again and escape the judgment of God by simply believing in Jesus as savior and Lord. This refutes the false idea that a sincere person a good person in worldly terms can have eternal life!

Jhn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Act 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

1Tim 2:6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Jhn 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Jhn 6:40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him (**as savior**) may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up (**from dead**) at the last day (**that day**)."

Jhn 20:30 And truly Jesus did many other signs (miracles) in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

Jhn 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Jhn 3:19 "**And this is the condemnation (basis for judging is the fact), that the light (God's Light) has come into the world, and men (people) loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds (actions) were evil.**

Jhn 1:4 In Him (Jesus, Word) was life (and the power to bestow life, He gave life to everything) and the life was the light of men.

Jhn 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness (world immersed in sin), and the darkness did not comprehend it (was naturally unreceptive to it).

Jhn 3:20 "**For everyone practicing evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light (but shrinks or hides from it), lest his deeds (actions) should be exposed (and condemned).**

(In the Greek this refers to an unsaved person who has made the decision not to believe in the Son, Jesus Christ, that is, not to accept the salvation offered, this person stands condemned by God unless he changes his mind and believes.

We are completely condemned when we reject God's offer of salvation by not coming to the Light of Jesus.

Eph 5:11 And (**are to**) have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest (visible) by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light (**God's precepts are made visible by the Light**).

Jhn 3:21 "But he who does (practices) the truth, comes to the light, that his deeds (works) may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God (so that it can be seen that God is at work in that person)."

John 3:22-36 John the Baptist Exalts Christ (Johns Testimony)

Jhn 3:22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them (**disciples**) and baptized (Jesus was overseeing his disciples as they continued administering baptism).

Jhn 4:1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John

Jhn 4:2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),
Jesus did not personally perform water baptisms Himself; rather, His disciples carried out the physical baptisms under His authority and supervision.

Jhn 3:23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much (**an abundance of**) water there. And they (**people**) came and were (**being**) baptized.

Jhn 3:24 For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

Jhn 3:25 Then there arose a dispute (**debate**) between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification (**ceremonial washing**).

Jewish tradition required immersion baptism to convert to Judaism, and John the Baptist had most likely taken over the ritual, giving it new meaning in his own ministry. Tradition specified that there had to be enough water to completely cover a person, and that it had to be collected naturally.

Jhn 3:26 And they(**John's disciples**) came to John and said to him, "Rabbi (**Teacher**), He who was with you beyond the Jordan (**refers to Bethany beyond Jordan River crossing**), to whom you have testified--behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

The passage reflects how John's disciples perceived the movement—attributing the baptisms directly to Jesus because His followers were acting as His representatives.

Jhn 1:7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

Jhn 1:15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "

Jhn 1:34 "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Jhn 3:27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing (**can claim anything**) unless it has been given to him from heaven (**the truth is sourced in God**).

1Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

1Cor 3:7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

Jhn 3:28 "You yourselves bear me witness (**and can testify**), that I said, 'I am not the Christ (**Messiah**),' but, 'I have been sent before (**or ahead of**) Him (**as His appointed forerunner and messenger to announce and proclaim His coming** Mal 3:1, Mat 11:10, Luke 1:17&76, 7:27, John 1:9-27, Isa 40:3).'

Mal 3:1a "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord...

Mat 11:10 For this is he(**speaking of John**) of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

Jhn 3:29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who (**gladly**) stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled (**complete**).

John the Baptist's reference to Jesus as the bridegroom (see Matt. 9:15 and parallels; see Eph. 5:25–27; Rev. 19:7–8) identifies Jesus as Israel's long-awaited King and Messiah.

In the OT, Israel is frequently depicted as God's "bride" (Isa. 62:4–5; Jer. 2:2; Hos. 2:16–20). John the Baptist's role is that of the bridegroom's friend, who selflessly rejoices with the groom (see John 1:6–9, 15, 19–36). (from ESV study notes on BLB)

John was content just to be a friend of the Bridegroom.

Jhn 3:30 "He must increase (**become greater and greater and more important**), but I must decrease (**become less important**).

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jhn 3:31 "He who comes from above (**heaven**) is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks (**about things**) of the earth (**earthly things**). He who comes from heaven is above all.

Jhn 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

Jhn 8:23 And He(**Jesus**) said to them (Jews), "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

Jhn 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die (**unforgiven and condemned**) in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He (**Messiah, Christ, Savior**), you will die in your sins."

Jhn 3:32 "And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives (**accepts**) His testimony (**as true**).

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Isa 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Jhn 3:33 "He who has received His testimony has certified (**clearly seen now, and affirm**) that God is true (**truthful and cannot lie**).

1John 5:10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself (**by his experience as a new creation**); he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Jhn 3:34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God (**proclaims his Father's message**), for God does not give the (**gift of the**) Spirit by measure (**sparingly, without limit**).

Deu 18:18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

Jhn 1:16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace (**spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing; gift heaped upon gift**).

Jhn 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

All born again believers have the Holy Spirit (**but it the Spirit upon: leading and empowering**), but Jesus had the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Jhn 3:35 "The Father loves the Son, and has given (**and entrusted**) all things into His hand (**His authority**).

The Father within the Trinity, Godhead gives authority over the whole created universe to the Son (John 1:3; 3:16; 17; 5:22; 6:38; 14:16; 28; Heb. 1:2–3; 1 Pet. 3:22).

Jhn 3:36 "He who believes (**and trust**) in the Son (**as savior**) has everlasting life; and he who does not believe (**reject**) the Son (**as savior**) shall not see life (**eternal life with God**), but the wrath of God abides (**remains**) on him (**that person forever**)."

Jhn 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.
Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Jhn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
Jhn 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
Jhn 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

End
Seven Signs in the Gospel of John

- **John 2:1-11** Jesus turns water into wine.
- **John 4:46-54** Healing of the nobleman’s son.
- **John 5:1-15** Healing at the pool of Bethesda.
- **John 6:1-14** Feeding the 5,000 men plus families.
- **John 6:15-21** Jesus walks on water.
- **John 9:1-12** Healing of the man born blind.
- **John 11:1-44** Lazarus raised from the dead.

“All over the New Testament this idea of rebirth, re-creation occurs.” (Barclay from BLB Guzik)

- 1 Peter speaks of being born anew by God’s great mercy (1 Peter 1:3).
- 1 Peter speaks of being born anew from an imperishable seed (1 Peter 1:22-23).
- James speaks of God bringing us forth by the word of truth (James 1:18).
- Titus speaks to us of the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5).
- Romans speaks of dying with Jesus and rising anew (Romans 6:1-11).
- 1 Corinthians speaks of new believers as new-born babes (1 Corinthians 3:1-2).
- 2 Corinthians speaks of us being a new creation in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Galatians says that in Jesus we are a new creation (Galatians 6:15).
- Ephesians says the new man is created after God in righteousness (Ephesians 4:22-24).
- Hebrews says that at the beginning of our Christian life we are like children (Hebrews 5:12-14).