

BOOK TWO

the Word

one to one

The Word One to One

© William Taylor/Richard Borgonon/10Publishing, 2013

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

Published by 10Publishing, a division of 10ofthose.com 9D Centurion Court, Farington, Leyland, PR25 3UQ, England.

Email: info@10ofthose.com Website: www.10ofthose.com

Bible quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. ® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

ISBN 978-1-909611-21-4 (Pack 1 - including books 1-3)

Designed by Diane Bainbridge
Printed in the UK

10 Publishing
a division of **10** of those.com

Jesus arrives with a bang!

John 2 vs 1-12

Setting the scene...

When we read the Bible, we can expect the writer to tell us what it all means.

For example... John tells us towards the end of his book what it's all about.



John 20 vs 30-31 'Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'

The Bible was originally written as straight text, and John's Gospel is divided by themes. Bible chapters were added in the 13th century and verse numbers in the 16th century. They were designed to help the reader, but they aren't always brilliant!

This section of John is organized around two signs/miracles – they are the 'book ends':

- Beginning at the start of chapter 2 – the miracle at the wedding...
- ... and closing in chapter 4 – saving the official's son from death.

All that is written between these two miracles hangs together – i.e. it's all on the same theme.

- This is sophisticated writing by someone with a point to make!

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.' ⁴ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.⁸ Then he told them,

'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

A miracle Man...

¹⁰ ...‘Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.’

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Jesus performs this first miracle in Cana, Galilee. However, we will soon be reading of Jesus' fame as a miracle worker. This suggests that the news hit the headlines fast - you would have read about it in your newspaper the next day - or on Twitter that night!

What is this story all about?

So how does this wine miracle reveal Jesus' glory?

- Huge quantity!
v 6 120–180 gallons... over 1,000 bottles of wine – way more than any wedding would need!
- Excellent quality!
v 10 The very finest wine... and provided by Jesus, not by the bridegroom!

And there's more to it than that...

Glory and belief

- The glory of Jesus...
- So that the disciples believe

Marriage in the Bible is set up as a brilliant picture of the perfect relationship God wants with his people. The Old Testament refers to God's coming Messiah as the ultimate 'Bridegroom', and to God providing an unmatched wedding banquet. This was predicted 700 years before His arrival, by the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 25 vs 6, 8a, 9

- ⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine - the best of meats and the finest of wines.
- ⁸ He will swallow up death for ever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces;
- ⁹ In that day they will say, 'Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.'

Let the party begin!

What does Jesus do?

- v 6 He provides a great feast of wine
- v 8 He saves a boy from death – we will see this happen in chapter 4.

Why does He do this?

- v 9 To let everyone know He's the one they're waiting for – the Saviour

So – with this miracle, Jesus reveals **His glory** at this wedding feast.

He is the long-awaited Bridegroom who comes to offer a perfect relationship with God.

Like an earthquake hitting, the wedding announces the arrival of the promised Messiah, God's King.

Timing is everything...

⁴ ‘Woman, why do you involve me?’ Jesus replied. ‘My hour has not yet come.’



Jesus wants his mum to know – He’s not here for party tricks – He’s here for something far more important! The wedding party is a picture of what is to come – a perfect relationship with God through Jesus.

Jesus keeps referring to his ‘hour’ throughout the three years of His ministry. John refers to it in chapters 2, 12 and 17.

What is ‘the hour’ all about in verse 4?

He tells us in chapter 17 v 1:

‘When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.”’



So, the hour is Jesus’ death and resurrection... right from the start, this is the plan.

What a way to announce your arrival! Jesus is the promised Saviour.

Here's a chance to re-read
our latest section



John 2 vs 1-12

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.' ⁴ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.' ¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

What comes next?

After the 'bombshell' of the wedding announcement of Jesus' arrival, we travel from Galilee to the very heart of the Jewish nation... the Temple in Jerusalem.

We arrive at the biggest festival of the entire year - 'Passover' (when the Jews celebrate being saved) and Jesus (the Saviour) acts as if he owns 'The Joint'!

Jesus in action

John 2 vs 13-22

The Jews viewed the Temple in Jerusalem as being where God lived with His holy people... As it is Passover, the Temple would have been absolutely crammed.

Today we'll see Jesus - God's Son - cause chaos in the Temple... and it doesn't go down well with the Jewish leaders.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!'

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

Clearing out the rubbish...

What do you make of this violent scene?

What do Jesus' disciples remember?

1000 years before this happened, King David wrote:

Psalm 69 v 9 'For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.'

King David was desperately concerned for God's glory... he was not put off by those who opposed him.

Why is it OK for Jesus to do this?

- Like King David before Him, Jesus is God's King v 15
- He's the Son of the 'owner' – it's His house v 17
- He's clearing out the religious fakes
- Jesus is acting as God's judge

Who is this Man...?

John has given us three pictures of 'Jesus the King':

- John 1 vs 1-11 'The Word' – the creator God.
- John 2 vs 1-12 The Messiah King – who will bring a heavenly banquet in perfect relationship with God.
- John 2 vs 13-17 The Judging King in his house – the Owner of the Temple.

Does this change your picture of Jesus?

Clearly He is not just the 'Gentle Jesus meek and mild' from Primary School assemblies!

Nor is He the hippy-like picture of 'love and peace'!

Rather... Jesus is the Judging King.

It's no surprise that the Jews start asking questions about His authority.

New orders...

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

²⁰ They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?'

²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was **his body**.

²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Why do you think the Jews reply like this?

In other words – 'Who the heck do you think you are?!

What do you think Jesus means in v 19?

v 20 The Jews simply don't understand! They are thinking of an outstanding building that's taken them 46 years to finish!

v 21 However, Jesus is talking about **His physical body** – God's presence on earth.

By His death and resurrection He will achieve everything the Temple pointed towards – God's presence with His people.

How do we know that
Jesus is who He says He is?

The proof that Jesus is God's King and has God's authority to judge ultimately lies in Jesus' death and resurrection.

- No physical resurrection = no authority!

True faith

22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

How does genuine faith come about?

v 22 It comes through belief in:

- Jesus' works – His death and resurrection
- God's Word – the Bible
- Jesus' words

Summary...

what have these two stories of the wedding and the Temple shown us?

- Jesus acts always to reveal his glory (never mind what people think!)
- So that we might believe that:
 - Jesus is God's King
 - He has come to save us from death
 - Jesus is Lord and Judge of us all

How do we come to believe this?

- Look at his death and resurrection
- Look at the Bible
- Listen to Jesus' words

To do this keep reading...

Take a moment to re-read
the section below...

John 2 vs 13-22

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!’ ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, ‘What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’ ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ ²⁰ They replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’ ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

What comes next?

Next, in walks the senior teacher of the Jews for a secret meeting with Jesus at night.

God's King arrives...

John 2 v 23 - 3 v 15

Recap...

The theme for this section, from chapter 2 to chapter 4, is Jesus' arrival as God's King bringing God's perfect Kingdom. This is explained through Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy:

As predicted in Isaiah 25 v 6-9 Jesus...
 '...the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast...
 for all peoples' (v 6)

- Jesus is God's King bringing God's Kingdom
- v 8: He will 'swallow up death for ever'

Isaiah says... v 9: 'Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us... let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.'

This raises two questions:

- Who gets in to God's Kingdom?
- How do we get in?

We deliberately start this time at John 2 v 23, ignoring the chapter division which interrupts the flow.

NO ENTRY... no matter how religious

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.

²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people.

²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

What was one of the responses to Jesus?

v 23 They believed in His name.

Does anything surprise you in here?

If Jesus were just a self-promoting celebrity, He would crave the crowd's praise.

He doesn't. Instead He draws back from them.

Why won't He trust Himself to the crowds?

v 25 Because He knew what we humans are like.

Jesus gives Nicodemus a basic Sunday school lesson!

Chapter 3

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

² He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.'

³ Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'

Who exactly is Nicodemus?

v 1 He's one of the top religious leaders.

What needs to happen to him?

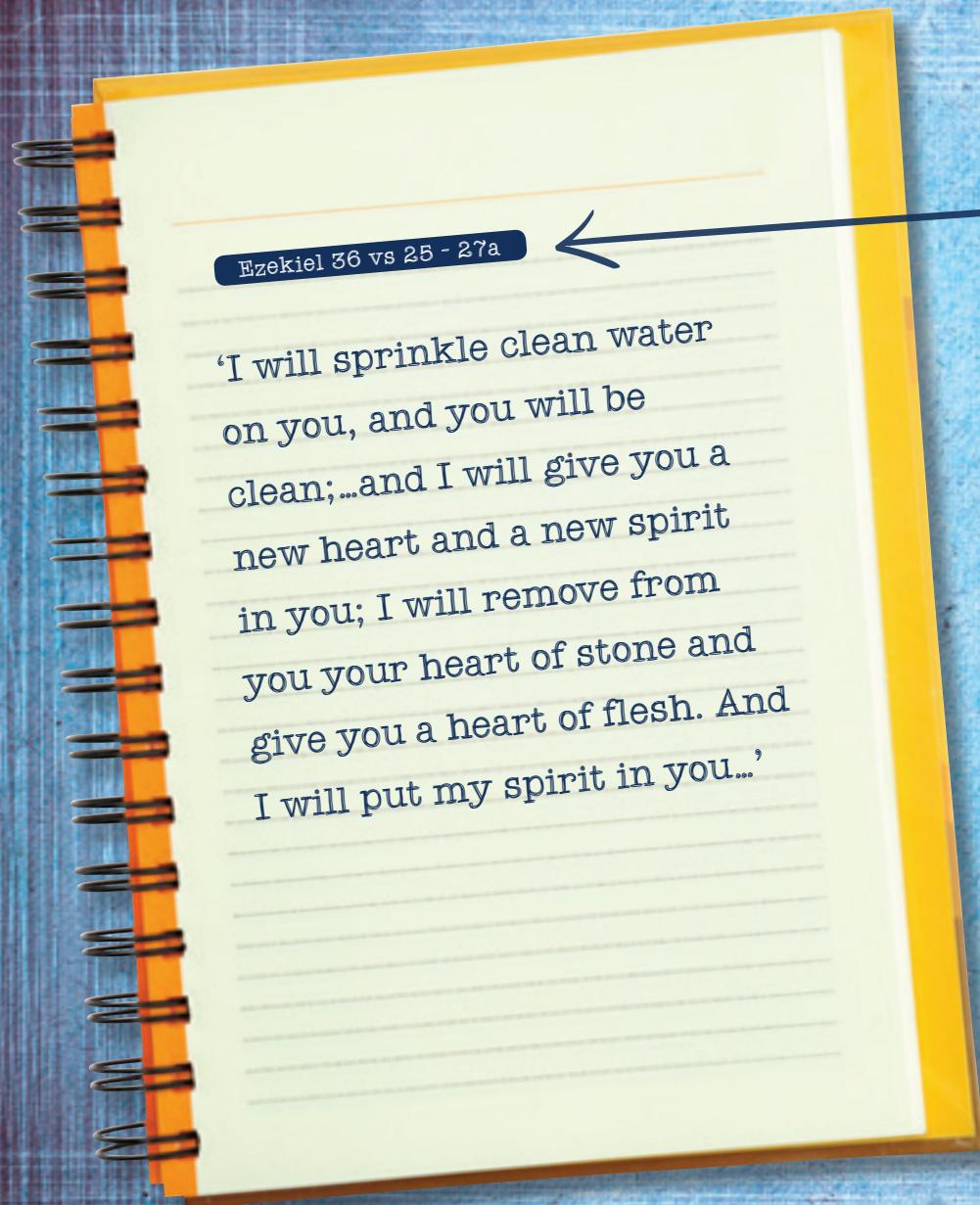
v 3 To enter God's Kingdom he needs to be born again.

There is no back door entrance, even for the super religious! No one can enter the Kingdom of God any other way!

This is Jesus saying 'Pay attention. This is important!'

Jesus makes clear that belief in God, or even believing the miracles isn't enough to enter His Kingdom. Being religious doesn't interest God. Even if you're the Chief Rabbi, something different is needed!

NO ENTRY...except by new birth



Let's look at the Old Testament
to see what Nicodemus
should have known:

This prophecy is from God – that He will restore His people by bringing:

- Forgiveness – symbolized by the washing with water.
- And God’s presence – by the Holy Spirit within them.

The Jewish people had been longing for the fulfilment of God’s promises...

- They would have been as familiar with them as we are with our national anthem!

Nicodemus should have known:

- That no one can enter God’s Kingdom without God’s forgiveness.
- God Himself was coming by His Spirit to bring a new heart and new spirit.

Back in John 3:

⁴ ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’

⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.’

⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but *the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

* Flesh means human.
Humans give human life!
Spirit means from God.
God gives spiritual life!

What does it mean
to ‘be born of water’?

v 5 This is to receive the spiritual washing away of our sin.

OK, what does it mean to
‘be born of the spirit’?

v 5 This is to receive the fresh start.
A heart transplant from God!
(The water and Spirit of Ezekiel’s prophecy.)

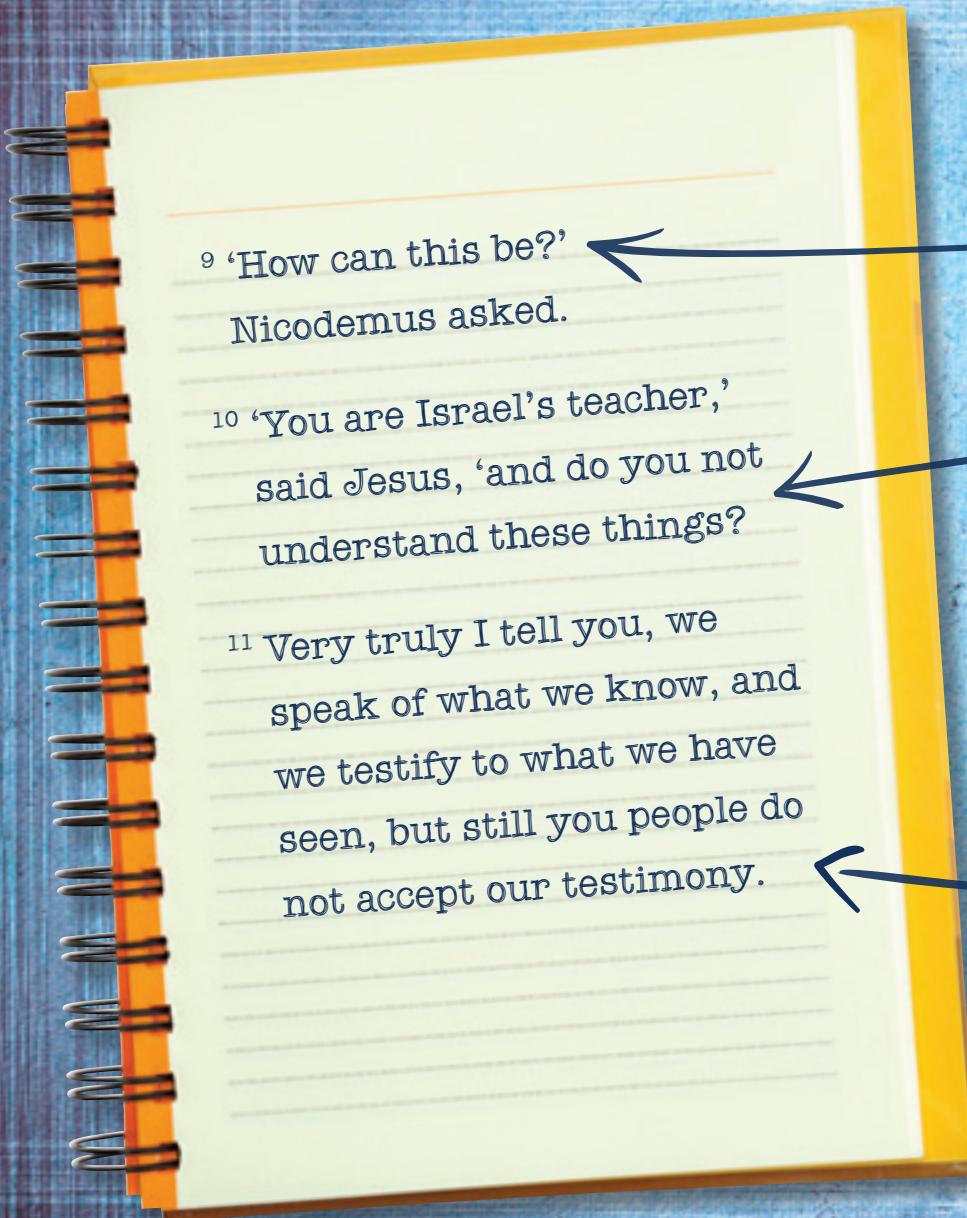
Remember John the Baptist said that his washing was symbolizing something much bigger. Jesus would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again."

⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'

Why does it have to be like this?

- First, because God does things His way! It's not us who are in charge of entry into God's Kingdom. v 7
- Secondly, because we humans are only 'flesh' - we need God to work to make us something more. v 8



How does Nicodemus react?

v 9 He just doesn't get it.

What does Jesus point out?

v 10 As Israel’s top teacher... you should understand that doing lots of religious stuff isn’t what gets a person into God’s Kingdom.

So what is the big problem?

Nicodemus doesn’t yet believe that Jesus has come from God.

NO ENTRY.. Except by faith

¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man.

What does Jesus tell Nicodemus to do?

He needs to *believe*, if he's to understand all this!

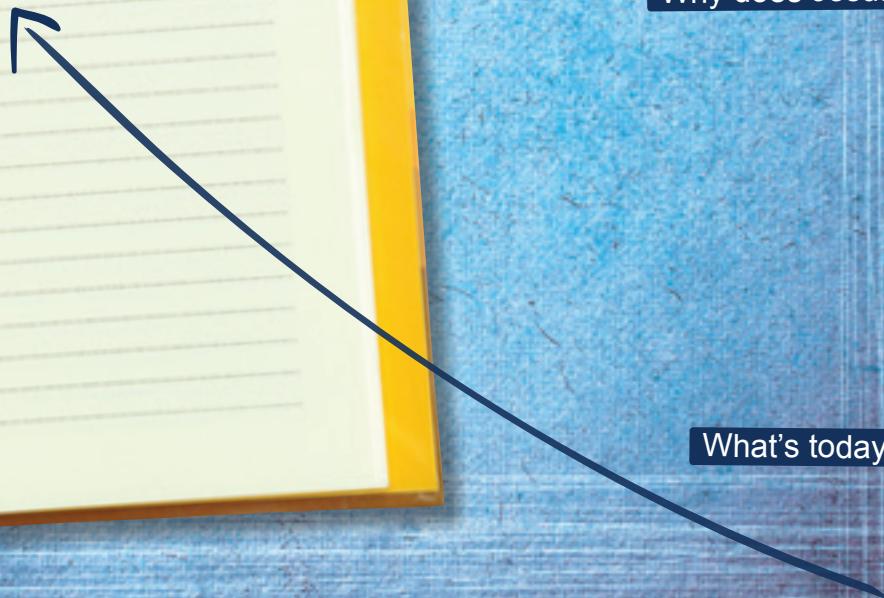
How then can a person be born again?

We find out over the page.

No human can ever get to God, or understand God unless God steps down from heaven to meet us. Jesus confronts Nicodemus with the stunning news that Jesus is God, standing right in front of him.

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'



Jesus takes us back to a time when a NO ENTRY sign was hanging over the promised land of Israel. God's people were stuck out in the wilderness... they had rebelled against God 'big time'! God therefore judged them by sending deadly serpents... The punishment for sin and rebellion in the Bible is always death.

In the book of Numbers we learn that God provided a way by which his people could be saved from his judgement, if they turned back to God and trusted him...

- God provided a way of rescue from the punishment of the snakes... lifted up on a pole was a bronze snake!
- By trusting God and looking at the snake, God would remove his punishment, and they'd be saved.

Why does Jesus tell this story?

To tell Nicodemus that He has come to die, so that we can all be saved.

Just as Israel needed to look to the bronze snake to be saved, so we need to look to the cross, trusting God that He will remove His punishment for our sin through Jesus' death and resurrection.

What's today's big lesson?

- Trust in Jesus and His death that is coming...
- He will give you eternal life.

Here's a chance to re-read
what we've looked at today!

John 2 v 23 - 3 v 15

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.' ³ Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.' ⁴ 'How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.' ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' ⁹ 'How can this be?' Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ 'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, 'and do you not

understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

What comes next?

Jesus says to Nicodemus what
has become the best known
verse in the Bible:

'For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.'

No entry except through Jesus!

John 3 vs 16-36

Recap:

We ended up last time with Jesus explaining that a person can only enter God's Kingdom if they are given a fresh start from God (being born again).

Nicodemus found this almost impossible to understand! He thought being religious was enough to save him. Jesus said no - we have to trust in God to rescue us from his judgement for our sin.

This time we have two parts:

- God's salvation (rescue)
- God's Saviour

God's salvation

Do you recognize this verse?

This is the most famous verse in the whole Bible.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not ~~perish~~ but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The phrase 'the world' in John's Gospel always means: people like you and me who refuse to recognize God as boss!

What do these verses

tell us about God?

- He loves us
- He sent Jesus to die for us

So why did God send His Son?

- To bring **eternal life**!
 - He came to save (not condemn)!
- Without trusting in Jesus we perish, but by trusting in Jesus we have eternal life.

* 'To perish' is to die and face God's judgements for our refusal to recognise him as King. Death and judgement are our punishment for our rebellion.



What is our current
position before God?

It's extremely clear... 'condemned'.

v 18

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

¹⁹ This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

...a legal term, meaning 'guilty verdict'... 'sent down'...

Jesus comes to change this! He died for us, taking the punishment for our sin.

If we reject Jesus we stay condemned – choosing to stay in the 'darkness', rather than God's brilliant light. v 19

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptised.

²³ Now John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptised.

²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.)

If we reject Jesus

what does this tell us?

v 20 We prefer the dark!

These are huge claims that Jesus is making... and they raise big questions...

- Who does He think He is?
- Can we trust Him?

John the Baptist now comes back centre stage to underline what Jesus has been saying about himself... and about us...

²⁵ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.

²⁶ They came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan - the one you testified about - look, he is baptising, and everyone is going to him.'

²⁷ To this John replied, 'A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.'

²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, "I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him."

²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.

God's Saviour

The followers of John the Baptist rightly ask - 'Who is this new Man on the scene?'

John tells them Jesus is '*the Bridegroom*' – an expression used in the Old Testament for the Messiah.

Who does John say He is?

He's like a best man – '*the friend of the bridegroom*'.

No wonder he's happy Jesus has arrived – and that Jesus must be the centre of attention!

Why should we listen to Jesus?

³¹ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

³² He *testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony.

³³ Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is **true**.

³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the **Spirit without limit**.

- Jesus is supreme v 31
- * Jesus tells us about God... After all, only He has seen and heard God!
- Jesus is true v 33

How can we know He's truthful?

As we receive Jesus and His word He demonstrates to us, and we know, that this is God speaking!

God the Father pours out His Spirit on God the Son. This means that when we listen to Jesus we are listening to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

How much of His Spirit does God give to Jesus?

v 34 All of it – ‘without limit’.

³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

How much has God entrusted to Jesus?

Everything v 35

Why?

Because *the Father loves the Son.*
v 36

This means that when it comes to the words of Jesus, the stakes are really high!

Summary...

This passage underlines why Jesus came:

- because God loves us
- to die

- so that we need not perish under God's judgement

Jesus has the right to speak the way He does... and we should listen - the consequences are life-changing!

• Believe in Jesus = eternal life

• Reject Jesus = the wrath (judgement) of God

Take a moment to re-read
what we have looked at...

John 3 vs 16-36

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. ²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptised. ²³ Now John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptised. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They came to John

and said to him, 'Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan - the one you testified about - look, he is baptising, and everyone is going to him.' ²⁷ To this John replied, 'A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, "I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him." ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.' ³¹ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Recap...

JOHN CHAPTER 1
Jesus - the King - God on earth

JOHN CHAPTER 2
The Kingdom has arrived:

- God's glory - seen through the wedding feast
- God's judgement - seen through the throwing of the money-changers out of the temple

JOHN CHAPTER 3
How do you get into the Kingdom?

- Everyone needs to be 'born again' - even the most religious man - Nicodemus
- This happens only through God
- It brings eternal life and freedom from the wrath of God
- It comes by believing in what God has done through Jesus

What comes next?

In John chapter 4 - we get a real shock as a surprising candidate enters the Kingdom!