

The Gospel of
JOHN
Chapters I-10

Lesson 4:
Beginning Public Ministry of Jesus, Part 3
Chapter 3:1-36

The Gospel of
JOHN


Lesson 4

Quick Review

- Purpose in writing
- Prologue
- Starting His ministry

Beginning Public Ministry, Part 3 (3:1-36)

- "How can a man be born when he is old?" (3:1-21)
- "He must increase, but I must decrease" (3:22-36)

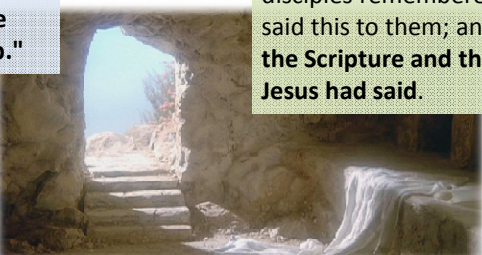


The Gospel of JOHN
Purpose of Writing

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.**

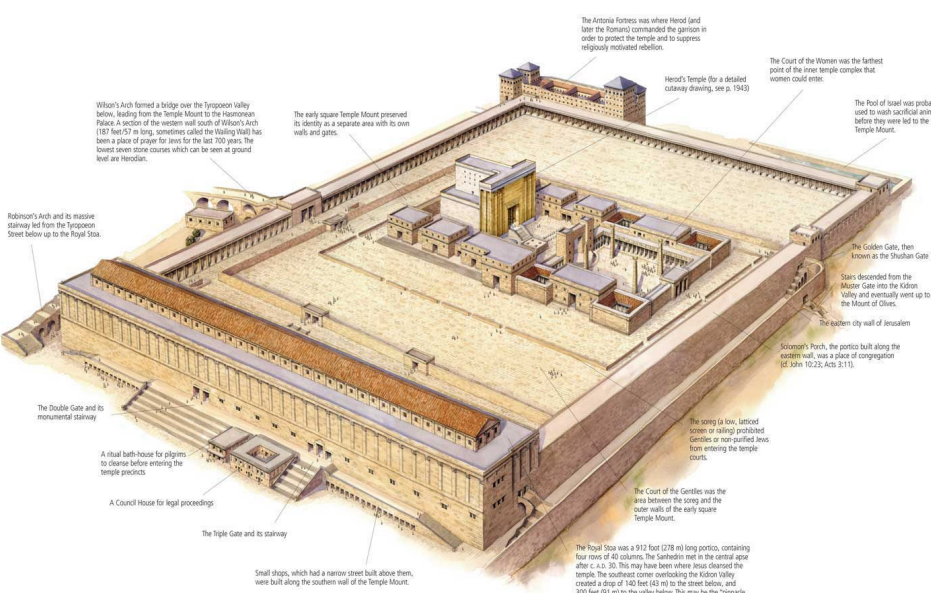
John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**"

John 2:22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and **they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.**



3

The Gospel of JOHN
Herod's Temple



The Antonia Fortress was where Herod (and later the Romans) commanded the garrison in order to protect the temple and to suppress religiously motivated rebellion.

Herod's Temple for a detailed cutaway drawing, see p. 1942)

The Court of the Women was the farthest point of the new temple complex that women could enter.

The Pool of Israel was probably used to wash sacrificial animals before they were led to the Temple Mount.

The Golden Gate, then known as the Shushan Gate

Stairs descended from the Mount Gate into the Kidron Valley and eventually went up to the Mount of Olives.

The eastern city wall of Jerusalem

Socomen's Porch, the portico built along the eastern wall, was a place of congregation (cf. John 10:23; Acts 3:11).

The song (a low, latticed screen or railing) prohibited Gentiles or non-purified Jews from entering the temple courts.

The Court of the Gentiles was the area between the song and the outer walls of the early square Temple Mount.

The Royal Stoa was a 912 foot (278 m) long portico, containing four rows of 40 columns. The Sanhedrin met in the central apse about c. a.d. 30. This may have been where Jesus charged the temple. The southeast corner overlooking the Kidron Valley created a drop of 140 feet (43 m) to the street below, and 300 feet (91 m) to the valley below. This may be the "porchade of the temple" mentioned in Matt. 4:5 and Luke 4:9.

Wilson's Arch formed a bridge over the Tyropoeon Valley below, leading from the Temple Mount to the Hippomanes Palace. A section of the western wall south of Wilson's Arch (150 feet (47 m) long, sometimes called the Walling Wall) has been a place of prayer for Jews for the last 700 years. The lowest seven stone courses which can be seen at ground level are Herodian.

The early square Temple Mount preserved its identity as a separate area with its own walls and gates.

Robinson's Arch and its massive stairway led from the Tyropoeon Street below up to the Royal Stoa.

The Double Gate and its monumental stairway

A ritual bath-house for pilgrims to cleanse before entering the temple precincts

A Council House for legal proceedings

The Triple Gate and its stairway

Small shops, which had a narrow street built above them, were built along the southern wall of the Temple Mount.

The Gospel of **JOHN** **“How can a man be born when he is old?”**

John 3:1-6 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 and said to him, "Most assuredly, 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, "Most assuredly, 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.

5

The Gospel of **JOHN** **“How can a man be born when he is old?”**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God..."

Water <i>(baptism)</i>	and	Spirit <i>(Word)</i>
Commissioned- Acts 28:19		Saved by it- Jas 1:21;
Obeded- Acts 16:35-39		1 Pet 1:22-23
Commanded- Acts 10:47-48		Begotten by it- Jas 1:18;
Saves- 1 Pet 3:20-21		1 Cor 4:15


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

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

6

The Gospel of
JOHN "How can a man be born when he is old?"

1. Who was Nicodemus and what do other passages of scripture lead someone to conclude about his loyalty to Jesus (John 7:44-52; 19:39-40)?



- **John 7:** Nicodemus stands up for Jesus and the message that He teaches
- **John 19:** Nicodemus is one who helps Joseph of Arimathea prepare Jesus' body for burial- **I wonder if Nicodemus thinks back to this discussion at the cross (3:14-15)?**

Nicodemus:

- Pharisee
- Leader of the Jews (Sanhedrin)
- Professional student
- Interpreter and teacher of the scriptures

Was Jesus impressed with His new contact?

Paul's defense before King Agrippa
"I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I, except for these chains." (Acts 26:27-29)

The Gospel of
JOHN "How can a man be born when he is old?"

2. What did Jesus say one must do to see the kingdom of God? How did Nicodemus respond?

Jesus: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

"Such a complete reorientation is an experience that can well be likened to physical birth, for it is an emergence from darkness into light, when the restricted and confined is as last set free.... But Nicodemus, for all his theological learning, **lacks spiritual insight**. He fails to see that it is a supernatural birth of which Jesus is speaking. He understands His words about a second birth in a strictly literal sense, and does not hesitate to suggest that they are absurd. He has yet to learn that God's creative power is not limited to the material and the physical. There also exists a realm of spirit in which God is at work." (Tasker) ⁸

The Gospel of
JOHN **“How can a man be born when he is old?”**

John 3:7-12 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (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." (9) Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" (10) Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? (11) Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. (12) If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"

9

The Gospel of
JOHN **John 3:8, “Mystical or Understandable?”**

Mystical Explanation

John 3:8 NKJV 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.

- There are some things we just cannot explain concerning the operation of the Spirit of God.
- Just like the wind, we see the effect it has (and hear the sound it makes), but we really don't know where it came from or where it's going.
- The “new birth” is like this- we cannot actually see the birth of one's spirit anymore than we can see the wind.
- In the “new birth” we are raised to walk in the newness of life (Rom 6).

Powerful Word

John 3:8 YLT the Spirit where he willeth doth blow (breathes), and his voice thou dost hear, but thou hast not known whence he cometh, and whither he goeth*; thus is every one who hath been born of the Spirit.

- Jesus is actually answering in terms that Nicodemus should understand.
- Every other time the Greek word, is used in this text, it is translated, “spirit”.
- The Spirit speaks and through His word men are converted (1 Pet 1:23-25).
- Those who believe on the words that Jesus taught are saved (John 3:33-36).
- Everyone who is “born again” is converted this way.
- **Nicodemus' problem was that he didn't except “true” testimony.**

10
*See John 8:14

The Gospel of
JOHN **“How can a man be born when he is old?”**

John 3:13-18 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. (14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (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. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (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.

11

The Gospel of
JOHN **“No one has ascended to heaven”**

John 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.

“He has become flesh. Although heaven is His real and permanent home, He has come to live as a man among men, to reveal to them in language spoken by human lips and in actions wrought by human hands what they could never have discovered either by human intuition or human striving.” (Tasker)

“The Incarnation of the Pre-existent Son of God who was in heaven before he came down and so knows what he is telling about ‘the heavenly things.’This high conception of Christ runs all through the Gospel and is often in Christ’s own words as here.” (Robertson)

12

The Gospel of
JOHN **“How can a man be born when he is old?”**

3. How is the bronze serpent raised by Moses (Num 21:4-9) compared to God’s eternal plan for man? (Consider what Jesus says in John 8:28; 12:32-34 in your answer.)

John 8:48 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

John 12:32-34 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." (33) This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (34) The people answered Him, "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?"

13

The Gospel of
JOHN **Moses’ Bronze Serpent**

Numbers 21:4-6 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged 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 our soul loathes this worthless bread.**" (6) So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

14

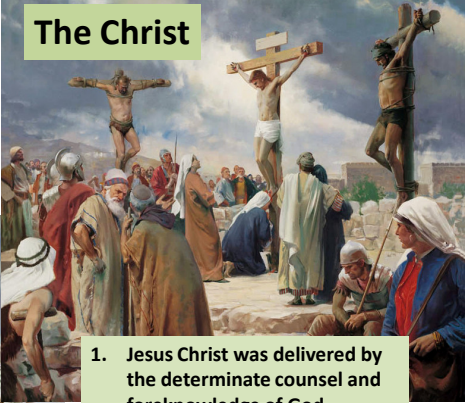
The Gospel of **JOHN** **Moses' Bronze Serpent**

Numbers 21:7-9 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. (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.**" (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.

15


The Gospel of **JOHN** **Moses' Serpent & Christ's Crucifixion**

1. The brazen serpent was prepared by the command of God and was not of man's device
2. When it was "lifted up", it symbolized God's way of saving men under the curse of sin
3. Obedient faith is required for deliverance



The Christ

1. Jesus Christ was delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God
2. When He was "lifted up", He symbolized God's way of saving men who are under the curse of sin
3. Obedient faith is required for deliverance



The Serpent

Notes from Harkrider 16

The Gospel of
JOHN **Moses' Serpent & Christ's Crucifixion**

“Similarly (like the bronze serpent), Jesus, the heavenly Son of man made flesh, is destined to be lifted up for all to see. He will hang on a cross like a condemned criminal. **But His subjection to that particular form of death will not be due to some mischance. He will die in that way, precisely because it is in that way that God has chosen to reveal His love for sinners.** He has given His Son to pay the penalty of their sins..... In consequence, all who look in faith to Him ‘whose blessed feet were nailed for our advantage to the bitter cross’ will never be subject to the death that is sin’s penalty, but enjoy eternal life.”
(Tasker)

17

The Gospel of
JOHN **“How can a man be born when he is old?”**

John 3:19-21 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (21) But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

18

The Gospel of
JOHN “How can a man be born when he is old?”

4. From verses 19-21, what does Jesus say about those who do not come to the light? How can Christians today be guilty of this?

Evil men:	Those that follow the truth:
○ Hate the Light	○ Come to the Light
○ Love darkness	○ Want their deeds exposed
○ Do not want their deeds exposed	○ Want to be obedient to God

If we no longer recognize the Word of God as the answer to all of life's complications, we will begin searching for man-created advice and wisdom. We will soon be pulled away from God and face God's wrath in our final judgment.

James 4:7-8 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

19

The Gospel of
JOHN “He must increase, and I must decrease”

John 3:22-27 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. (23) Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. (24) For John had not yet been thrown into prison. (25) Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. (26) And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified--behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!" (27) John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

20

The Gospel of **JOHN** **“He must increase, and I must decrease”**

John 3:28-32 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' (29) He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. (30) He must increase, but I must decrease. (31) He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. (32) And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

21

The Gospel of **JOHN** **“He must increase, and I must decrease”**

John 3:23 “Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.”

22

The Gospel of
JOHN “He must increase, and I must decrease”

5. What was John the Baptist’s point of comparing himself to the friend of the bridegroom (vs. 29)?

John uses an illustration of a marriage feast and process to describe his spiritual relationship to Jesus.

- The bride belongs to her husband- church is also described as the “bride of Christ”
- It is expected that people would flock to Jesus (the bridegroom)
- Friend of the bridegroom
 - Manages the marriage occasion
 - Commonly the nearest friend
 - Was a high honor
 - Honest joy is the proof of friendship

I sustain to the Messiah the relation which a groomsman does to the groom. The chief honor and the chief joy is not mine, but his. It is to be expected, therefore, that the people will come to him, and that his success will be great. The relation of Christ to the church is often compared with the marriage relation, denoting the tenderness of the union, and his great love for his people. (Barnes)

23

The Gospel of
JOHN “He must increase, and I must decrease”

John 3:33-36 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. (34) For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. (35) The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. (36) He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

24

The Gospel of
JOHN **“He must increase, and I must decrease”**

6. Summarize John’s testimony of Jesus. What does John say abides in those who do not believe in Jesus?

- Jesus speaks the Words of God (words of life)
- God has given Him all things concerning this message
- Jesus comes from heaven with a divine message
- Jesus testifies what He knows from heaven and no one listens

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and **he who does not believe** the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath of God abides on him.**

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief** in departing from the living God;

25

The Gospel of
JOHN **“That you may believe”**

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

Yet..... Most of mankind will never believe!

The Gospel of
JOHN

Next Week: John 4



“He told me
all that I
ever did.”

27