

Born Again

John 3:1-21

(Numbers 21:4-9)

by Don Falkos

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One night a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to see Jesus. "Teacher, because of the miraculous signs you perform it's obvious God is with you."

Jesus replied, "Believe me, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus misunderstood. When Jesus had said "from above" he used a word that sounded like the word "again." Nicodemus thought Jesus was telling him, "You must be born again."

"How can I, when I'm old, go back into my mother's womb to be born a second time?"

"I assure you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born both physically and spiritually. Those who are only born physically will only experience physical things. Those who are also born spiritually will also experience spiritual things."

"How is this possible?"

"You are a teacher of Israel and you don't understand these things? I assure you, I speak of what I know and what I've seen, but people like you refuse to accept what I say. In the wilderness, when the people of Israel complained, God sent venomous snakes to bite them, and many people died. Then God told Moses to make a bronze snake, which was lifted up on a pole. Whenever anyone was bitten, all they had to do was look at the bronze snake and they would live. In the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that anyone who looks to him will live.

"God loves the world so much that the only Son of God, the light of God has been given to the world to shine into the hearts of its people and reveal their motivations. And whoever believes in him will not be lost but will have eternal life."