

lr-nt-07
February 11-17
John 2-4
Ye Must Be Born Again
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I. Jesus taught that He is the Source of all Life

- A. John's first chapters focus on Christ's great role as Giver of Life.
- B. As Creator, He gave life to all things. "All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3).
- C. Thus no life would exist on the earth at all if it had not been for Jehovah, or Jesus Christ, the Creator. And this of course includes the mortal life of man.

II. Then Jehovah came to earth to give us *New Life*, through spiritual and physical Re-birth!

- A. He offered a *new spiritual life* to those who would receive it through baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- B. He would bring a *new physical life* through His Resurrection.
- C. He would offer a *future spiritual life* in the Resurrection (with differing degrees of glory according to men's works).
- D. "In him was life; and the life was the light of the world" (John 1:4). That is, Christ is the Giver of Life, and Faith in Him as that Giver of Life is the Light which leads us forward.

III. Christ teaches us how to receive this earthly new Rebirth through Him.

- A. Jesus' response to Nicodemus may have seemed a bit cold since Nicodemus came saying that he believed he was "a teacher come from God" (John 3:2).
- B. The problem was that Nicodemus' belief was only "half-way." Jesus was much more than Nicodemus perceived. He had come not just to teach and heal --- **but to give men new life. They needed to be reborn!**
- C. And rebirth could only occur because Jesus is the Son of God and God Himself. It is only through His divinity that He can provide this New Life.

IV. Christ Brings Life through His Light.

- A. As we know, it is the warmth of the sun's light which causes life to awake in the spring. Light is the essence of bringing Life.
- B. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved" (John 3:19-20).
- C. It is indeed tragic that today there are many who claim to be "born again" but deny the two great avenues leading to that new birth:
 - 1. First, they deny the ordinance needed to bestow the Holy Ghost, the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Other than those of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this writer knows of no ordinances made which even professes to bestow the power of the Holy Ghost. (It is assumed it just comes with baptism). But the scriptures taught of its necessity for man (Acts 8:15-17). And its absence is a witness that others do not know how to do it nor do they possess the keys to do it. It is a witness that the priesthood authority to do so is lost to them.

2. Second, many claim that *regardless of their deeds*, they are still “born again.” And yet, the teachings of the Master Himself, Jesus Christ, given in John 3:21, shows that this cannot be so. “But he that loveth truth **cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought to God.**” (John 3:19-21). (Emphasis added) Those truly “born again” cannot do evil deeds without sincere repentance, for they will shrink from the light which will manifest their deeds. Those who claim to be “born again” and yet live in sin, live in a lie.

V. Being “born again” begins in this life through the ordinances of baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost. But that is not the end.

- A. These new births pre-figure and lead to the Greater and Fuller New Birth which will come to us because of Christ’s atonement, death and resurrection.
- B. So, we must be “born again” in this life as preparation to be fully “born again” through Christ in the next.
- C. True baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost helps us live a “New Life.”
 1. If we walk faithfully to the guidance of that Spirit on earth, we will be better prepared to receive the quickening spirit, both physically and spiritually, in the Resurrection.
- D. One might ask, how will being “born of the spirit” here, prepare us to live a “life of the spirit” in the Eternities. One answer is that those who find joy in the things of the spirit, because they have been “born of the spirit” here, will find joy where all things have greater spiritual manifestations. Thus, those who find church attendance, scripture reading, temple attendance “boring” would also find the Celestial Kingdom “boring.” This would indicate they are not in tune with the Spirit and with true Spiritual Life.

IV. Christ showed that He was Israel’s True Bridegroom, thus the Giver of Life in 3 ways here.

- A. By miraculously providing wine at the wedding feast, Jesus manifest Himself as Israel’s Bridegroom, who would someday provide a more joyful wine at His wedding Feast with those covenanted to Him in the Eternities (John 2:1-11).
- B. John the Baptist, as “friend of the Bridegroom” testified, “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled” (John 3:29).
- C. His meeting the Samaritan woman at the well also testifies of this.
 1. By visiting the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well, Jesus manifest Himself as Israel’s Bridegroom. **For Jacob had met his bride at that same well. All Jesus’ words and actions conveyed that He was Israel’s Bridegroom, now come to gather those faithful to His New Covenant (John 4).**

VI. Jesus fulfilled His role as Bridegroom by “spiritually begetting” offspring --- those who would be “reborn” to New Life in the Resurrection..

- A. Jacob’s acts at this same “Well” testified of this truth. When Jacob rolled the stone away from the well for Rachel, he was bearing witness of Jesus’ resurrection.
- B. For the resurrected **Christ came forth from an earthen tomb whose stone had been rolled away.** He was met there by a woman (John 20:1, 11-18). She represented all the *living* and especially those who would inherit His fulfilled covenant, now possible through His resurrection.

C. Christ's grave was the true well! But the stone had been rolled away, and out of the depths had come Living Waters: Christ and Eternal Life!

D. Meanwhile, like the woman of Samaria, those who first learned of His *resurrection* hastily went and testified that *Jesus had risen*. Thus they immediately began to manifest the fruitfulness of Living Waters.

VII. The New Life which comes through Christ will be magnified in the Eternities. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the Sons of God..." (John 1:13).

- A. Every bridegroom is the source of new life to his bride. As Israel's Bridegroom, Jesus is the source not only of our Eternal Life but Eternal Lives.
- B. It is the Israelite tradition to be married under a canopy. This canopy is usually set up under the stars or provided with some form of lights set into its ceiling. This signified the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant, that through the covenants made between Jehovah and His covenanted people would come "seed as the stars in the heavens."
- C. Jesus Christ as Jehovah showed He was Israel's Bridegroom throughout the Old Testament. When He came, He testified He is that same Bridegroom. It is only through our spiritual unity with Him and faithfulness to our covenants with Him that we can finally realize the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.

In review we see:

- Christ provided Birth to all mortal Life through the Creation.
- His Priesthood authority is used to bestow the Spirit which allows us to be Reborn in this life through baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- He is the Creator of all Immortal life, or life beyond the Grave through His, and thus our Resurrection.
- Because of Him, our bodies will be reborn, or "quickened by the Spirit" in the Resurrection.
- As Israel's Bridegroom, He is The Way by which *new and continuing lives* come to those who inherit His greatest Covenant Blessings.

Truly in every way, Jesus the Christ is The Life by which we are Reborn.