

lr-nt-05
Born Again
John 1-4
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(This material testifies to the seeking student that all our births and vital re-births come through Jesus the Christ. It also shows unity in John's scriptural themes).

I. Jesus is the Life.

A. In a most powerful way, John 1:1 reveals that Jesus Christ is the Giver of all Life.

B. "In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.... All things were made by him and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3).

C. John testifies **Jesus Christ was divine, and because He was divine, He gave life to all things --- through the Creation.** Thus no life would exist on the earth at all if it had not been for **Jesus, the Creator.** This **includes the mortal life of man.**

II. Jesus came to earth to provide **New Births**, else each of us here would die --- both spiritually and physically.

A. John taught that giving such New Births would be Jesus' greatest mortal mission.

1. "But **as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name, **which were born, not of the blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God**" (John 1:12-13).

2. John here is teaching that through Christ's mortal works, man could experience a **spiritual rebirth** which could make him **literally a "son of God."**

III. Because of the Fall of Adam, each man was cut off from God, and would experience a spiritual death. Each needed to be reborn spiritually.

A. Jesus tried to explain to Nicodemus the first steps to this *new spiritual re-birth*, which is being born of the water (baptism) and then of the spirit (receiving the Holy Ghost) (John 3:5-8).

B. Nicodemus had trouble understanding. Jesus' response may seem cold as Nicodemus showed belief Jesus was "a teacher come from God" (John 3:2).

1. The problem was **Nicodemus believed only "half-way."** Jesus was not a *teacher come from God*, **but was God.** He hadn't come to teach--- **but to give men new life.**

2. **Man must first be "reborn" to things of the Spirit, entering into a new spiritual life.**

3. Jesus had come to show the Way and to facilitate it.

a. First, He himself had been baptized, even though righteous, **to show all others the need for baptism.** He had also manifest the need for that spiritual baptism which could come through receiving the Holy Ghost (Matthew 13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22).

4. Paul taught in being baptized we are "dying" to our old sins. And because of Jesus' cleansing, when we come up out of the waters we are newly reborn [as in Resurrection], and because of Jesus' atonement, born to a new spiritual life (Romans 6:3).

5. John explained **that our Rebirth follows the pattern of our original birth. That pattern begins through the shedding of blood of another [Mothers shed their blood as they bring us into our mortal life; Jesus shed His blood to give us Spiritual Rebirth].**

The pattern continues as in mortal birth and spiritual rebirth we come up out of death-like waters [of the womb, and of baptismal waters] and then the spirit [our eternal spirit

in mortal birth; the Holy Ghost in our rebirth] enters into us, giving us New Life. Thus we truly are Reborn! (1 John 5:6-8).

6. Both births could only occur because Jesus is the Son of God and God Himself. It is only because He is divine He could open the Way for our original Life and for our New Spiritual Life.

IV. Jesus would also bring a **future New Life** through His Resurrection.

A. All 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. It will come to all through His Grace, but each resurrected being will experience lesser or greater inheritances, according to one's works (Matt 25:31-40).

C. Will being "born of the spirit" here, prepare us to live a "life of the spirit" in the Eternities? **Yes! Those who find joy in the things of the spirit, [because they have been truly "born of the spirit"] will find greater joy in the realm where all things are spiritual. Those who find church attendance, scripture reading, temple attendance "boring," will also likely find the Celestial Kingdom "boring." This would indicate they are not in tune with the Spirit and with true Spiritual Life.**

V. Jesus Taught the way to be Born Again, but many deny the Way.

A. First, some deny the need to be baptized, placing misunderstood words of the *disciple* (Paul), over the words of the *Master*, Jesus the Christ, who taught **all must be baptized** (John 3:3,5).

B. Some deny the importance of the beautifully symbolic "burial" and "resurrection" which manifests the true meaning of "baptism."

C. Most deny the need to have true authority to baptize.

D. Most **deny the ordinance needed to bestow the Holy Ghost**, the laying on of hands. The scriptures bear witness of its necessity (Acts 8:15-17). **The absence of this ordinance is a witness that they do not know how to do it nor do they possess the priesthood keys to do it.**

E. Third, many deny the change of life that must come with being Born Again. Many foolishly 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). 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.

VI. Christ testified in Samaria He would bring Eternal Life.

A. Meeting the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus taught He would bring life through His Living Water. This partly refers to teachings which will *eternally* nurture us.

B. **Its most important meaning is to the Resurrection**, which was here foreshadowed.

C. When Jacob rolled the stone away from this very well, for Rachel, he was bearing witness of Jesus' resurrection. *Note the patterns.*

1. The resurrected **Christ came forth from a tomb [like a well] in the earth, whose stone had been rolled away. He was met there by a woman, Mary (John**

20:1, 11-18). She represented *all*, and especially those who would inherit His fulfilled covenant, now possible through His resurrection.

Jesus' grave was the true well! Its stone had been rolled away, and out of the depths had come Living Waters, Christ Himself, who brought Eternal Life!

2. Meanwhile, like the woman of Samaria, Mary and others who first learned of His resurrection, *hastily went and testified that Jesus had risen. Thus they immediately manifest the fruitfulness of Living Waters.*
3. This Biblical student sincerely believes members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are a fulfillment of New Testament prophecies about Samaritans. *We are Israelites who have been mixed in the world. Like the woman at the well, we are given the true knowledge of Christ, and are meant to testify of Him. Like the Good Samaritan, we have been given responsibility to heal our wounded brethren, until the Master returns. Like the tenth leper, a Samaritan, hopefully we are giving our "Thanks," by testifying of Christ.*

VII. Jesus Christ revealed He is the True Bridegroom, through whom will come Life.

A. John the Baptist first testified Jesus was Israel's Bridegroom, who had come to gather His Faithful unto Himself.

1. "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: thus my joy therefore is fulfilled" (John 3:29).

B. By miraculously providing wine at the wedding feast, Jesus quickly manifest Himself as Israel's Bridegroom, who would some day provide a joyful wine at His wedding Feast with those covenanted to Him in the Eternities (John 2:1-11).

C. By visiting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, Jesus confirmed He was Israel's Bridegroom. 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 any who would accept and be faithful to His New Covenant (John 4).

VIII. **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.

A. For the Life which comes through this Bridegroom 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).

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 in its ceiling. This signified 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 repeatedly testified He is that same Bridegroom.

D. **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.**