

A New Look at Saint Nic' [Nicodemus] (John 2:23–3:15)

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Water of Life Bible Class

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Introduction

The Context in which Nicodemus Visited Jesus the First Time (2:23-25)

2₂₃ Now while He was in Jerusalem at Passover, during the *eight-day* feast, many believed in His name, after seeing the signs He was doing.

2₂₄ However, Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, since He knew everyone

2₂₅ and since He did not need anyone to testify about *mankind*; for He Himself knew what was in *mankind*.

Nicodemus' First Question (3:1-3)

3₁ (Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Judeans).

3₂ He came to Him at night and told Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher, because no one can do these signs You do unless God is with him."

3₃ Replying, Jesus said to him, "Amen, amen, I tell you, unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Anōthen means *from above*, not *again*. See John 3:31; 8:23; 19:11

Nicodemus' Second Question (3:4-8)

3₄ Nicodemus told Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb a second *time* and be born, *can he*?"

3₅ Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I tell you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

The Sacramentarian view

First Non-Sacramentarian view

Second Non-Sacramentarian view

3₆ What has been born of the flesh is flesh, but what has been born of the Spirit is spirit.

3₇ Do not marvel that I told you, 'You• must be born from above.'
You• means that it is a plural form of you.

3₈ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know from where it comes and to where it goes. Thus is everyone who has been born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus' Third Question (3:9-15)

3₉ In response Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these *things* be?"

3₁₀ Jesus said to him in response, "Are you a teacher of Israel. but do not know these *things*?"

3₁₁ "Amen, amen, I tell you, We speak what We know and We testify to what We have seen, but you• do not receive Our testimony,

3₁₂ "If I have told you• earthly *things* and you• do not believe, how will you• believe if I should tell you• heavenly *things*?"

3₁₃ "Now no one has gone up into heaven except the *One* who came down from heaven—the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

3₁₄ "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, even so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

3₁₅ "so whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Conclusion