

John 3

Chapter 3 of 21 · 36 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Jesus and Nicodemus

- ¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
- ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
- ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
- ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
- ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
- ⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?
- ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?
- ¹¹ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which 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 whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John the Baptist Exalts Christ

22 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

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

24 For John was not yet cast into prison.

25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

29 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.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Baptize — βαπτίζω (Baptizo)

To baptize, immerse

The Greek **baptizo** (βαπτίζω) means to dip, immerse, or baptize. Christian baptism symbolizes identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4).

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Born Again — γεννάω ἄνωθεν (Gennao Anothēn)

Born again, born from above

The Greek phrase combines **gennao** (to beget/birth) with **anothēn** (from above/again). Jesus told Nicodemus, 'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God' (John 3:3)—a spiritual rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

Eternal — αἰώνιος (Aiōnios)

Eternal, everlasting

The Greek **aiōnios** (αἰώνιος) denotes eternal or everlasting—unending duration. Believers possess 'eternal life' (John 3:16) now and will dwell with God eternally, while the impenitent face 'eternal punishment' (Matthew 25:46).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Save — σώζω (Sozo)

To save, deliver, heal

The Greek **sozo** (σώζω) means to save—deliverance from sin, death, and judgment. 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The word also encompasses physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

John 3:1 **Parallel theme:** John 19:39

John 3:2 **References Jesus:** John 1:38; Acts 2:22; 10:38. **Parallel theme:** John 5:36; 7:31; 12:37; Judges 6:27. **References God:** John 9:16; Matthew 22:16

John 3:3 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 John 2:29. **References God:** John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 3:9; 5:18. **References Jesus:** Galatians 6:15; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 5:1

John 3:4 **Parallel theme:** John 3:3; 6:53; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:14

John 3:5 **Spirit:** Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 6:11. **Parallel theme:** Mark 16:16; Ephesians 5:26. **References Jesus:** 1 Peter 3:21; 1 John 5:1. **Kingdom:** John 3:3. **References God:** John 1:13

John 3:6 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 6:12; Job 14:4; 25:4; Romans 7:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:3; 1 John 3:9. **Spirit:** Psalms 51:10; Romans 8:13; 1 Corinthians 6:17

John 3:7 **Parallel theme:** John 3:3; 3:12; Job 15:14; Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:22; Revelation 21:27

John 3:8 **Spirit:** Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 2:11; 12:11. **Parallel theme:** John 1:13; Psalms 107:25; 107:29; Ezekiel 37:9; Acts 2:2; 1 John 2:29

John 3:9 **Parallel theme:** John 6:52; 6:60; Isaiah 42:16; Luke 1:34

John 3:10

References Jesus: Matthew 22:29. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 11:19; Matthew 15:14

John 3:11

Parallel theme: John 1:18; 7:16; 8:14; 8:38; 12:49; 14:24; Isaiah 50:2; 53:1; 65:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4

John 3:12 **Parallel theme:** John 3:5; 3:8; Hebrews 5:11

John 3:13 **Parallel theme:** John 1:18; 3:31; 6:38; 6:42; 6:62; 13:3; Proverbs 30:4; Acts 2:34; Romans 10:6; 1 Corinthians 15:47

John 3:14 **Parallel theme:** John 8:28; Psalms 22:16; Matthew 26:54; Luke 24:20; Acts 2:23.
References Moses: 2 Kings 18:4

John 3:15 **Faith:** John 1:12; 3:16; 3:36; 6:40; 6:47; 20:31; 1 John 5:1. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 45:22; Hebrews 7:25. **Eternal Life:** 1 John 5:20

John 3:16 **Love:** Romans 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 John 4:19. **Faith:** John 3:15; 3:36; 6:40.
Parallel theme: Romans 8:32. **Eternal Life:** John 10:28. **References God:** John 1:29; Romans 5:10

John 3:17 **Salvation:** Luke 19:10; 1 John 4:14. **Parallel theme:** John 5:45; 6:40; 6:57; 11:42; 20:21; 1 John 2:2. **References God:** John 6:29; 17:3

John 3:18 **Faith:** John 3:36; 5:24; 20:31; Mark 16:16; Romans 5:1; 1 John 5:10. **Parallel theme:** Romans 8:1. **References God:** Romans 8:34; 1 John 4:9; 5:12

John 3:19 **Light:** John 1:4; 8:12. **Parallel theme:** John 5:44; Luke 12:47; Romans 1:32; 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Peter 3:3. **Love:** John 12:43

John 3:20 **Evil:** John 7:7; 1 Kings 22:8. **Light:** Proverbs 4:18. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 50:17; Proverbs 1:29

John 3:21 **Truth:** Ephesians 5:9; 1 John 1:6. **References God:** 3 John 1:11. **Light:** Psalms 119:105. **Parallel theme:** John 1:47; 5:39; Psalms 119:80; Hosea 14:8; Galatians 6:8; Colossians 1:29

John 3:22 **Baptism:** John 3:26

John 3:23 **Baptism:** Luke 3:7

John 3:24 **References John:** Matthew 4:12; 14:3; Mark 6:17

John 3:25

Parallel theme: John 2:6; Matthew 3:11; Mark 7:8; Hebrews 6:2; 9:10; 9:23; 1 Peter 3:21

John 3:26 **Witness:** John 1:7; 1:15. **Parallel theme:** John 11:48; 12:19; Isaiah 45:23

John 3:27 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 17:5; Jeremiah 1:5; 17:16; Amos 7:15; Matthew 25:15; Mark 13:34; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 15:10; James 1:17. **References John:** Matthew 21:25

John 3:28 **References Christ:** John 1:20. **Parallel theme:** John 1:23; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:3

John 3:29 **Parallel theme:** John 16:24; Isaiah 54:5; Ezekiel 16:8; Hosea 2:19; Matthew 9:15; Luke 15:6; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Philippians 2:2; 1 John 1:4; Revelation 21:9

John 3:30 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 9:7; 1 Corinthians 3:5; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 11:15

John 3:31

Parallel theme: John 1:27; 6:33; 6:51; 8:23; Matthew 28:18; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 9:1; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 John 4:5; Revelation 19:16

John 3:32 **Witness:** John 3:11. **Parallel theme:** John 1:11; 15:15

John 3:33 **References God:** John 6:27; Hebrews 6:17. **Truth:** 2 Corinthians 1:18; Ephesians 1:13. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:22

John 3:34

Spirit: John 15:26; Matthew 12:18; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; Romans 8:2. **References God:** Colossians 2:9. **Parallel theme:** John 1:16; 5:26; 7:16; Colossians 1:19

John 3:35 **Parallel theme:** John 5:22; 13:3; 17:2; Psalms 2:8; Matthew 11:27; 28:18; Luke 10:22; 1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:22. **Love:** John 5:20

John 3:36 **Faith:** John 1:12; 5:24; Revelation 21:8. **Judgment:** Romans 5:9; Ephesians 5:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9. **Parallel theme:** John 8:51. **References God:** John 3:3. **Eternal Life:** John 10:28