

John 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Analysis

Jesus' response—'Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?'—contains gentle rebuke. 'Master' (didaskalos) with the article indicates Nicodemus's prominent teaching role. One so educated in Israel's Scriptures should understand regeneration from passages like Ezekiel 36:25-27 and Jeremiah 31:31-34. The Old Testament promised new hearts and indwelling Spirit. Nicodemus knew the texts but missed their meaning.

Historical Context

Prophetic promises of new hearts, cleansing water, and the Spirit's indwelling should have prepared Israel for Jesus' teaching. The failure to recognize these connections shows how tradition can obscure Scripture's plain meaning. Jesus expects Old Testament believers to recognize new covenant realities when they appear.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can religious tradition sometimes obscure rather than illuminate Scripture's meaning?
2. What Old Testament passages point to new birth and the Spirit's transforming work?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Σὺ	εἰ	ὁ
answered	G3588	Jesus	and	said	unto him	thou	Art	G3588
G611		G2424	G2532	G2036	G846	G4771	G1488	
διδάσκαλος	τοῦ	Ἰσραὴλ	καὶ	ταῦτα	οὐ	γινώσκεις		
a master	G3588	of Israel	and	these things	not	knowest		
G1320		G2474	G2532	G5023	G3756	G1097		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 22:29 (References Jesus): Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Ezekiel 11:19 (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.