

John 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Analysis

Christ's emphatic 'Ye must be born again' (Greek 'anōthen'—both 'again' and 'from above') stresses the absolute necessity of regeneration, not religious reform. This confronts all human-centered salvation schemes. The universal 'ye' (plural) indicates no one is exempt—even Pharisees need spiritual rebirth. Titus 3:5 echoes this: salvation is 'by the washing of regeneration', not by works.

Historical Context

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and Sanhedrin member, represented Judaism's spiritual elite. Jesus' radical statement that even he needed new birth challenged first-century Judaism's assumption that Abrahamic descent guaranteed God's favor.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced the new birth Jesus describes, or are you trusting in religious activity?
2. Why is spiritual rebirth necessary rather than moral improvement?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	θαυμάσης	ὅτι	εἶπόν	σοι	Δεῖ	ὕμᾱς	γεννηθῆναι
not	Marvel	that	I said	unto thee	must	Ye	be born
G3361	G2296	G3754	G2036	G4671	G1163	G5209	G1080

ἄνωθεν
again
G509

Additional Cross-References

John 3:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

Revelation 21:27 (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

1 Peter 1:22 (Parallel theme): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Hebrews 12:14 (Parallel theme): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Colossians 1:12 (Parallel theme): Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Job 15:14 (Parallel theme): What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

John 3:12 (Parallel theme): If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?