

#102 FORUM POST ON HOW TO UNDERSTAND “BORN AGAIN”

Dear All,

All threw Christian-dom we hear the term “born again”. You will hear people in the churches, on the street, at work, even in jail, making the statement, "since I have been born again. For those who have any knowledge in the word (Holy Scriptures) will understand that this just isn't the case, because born again is a change in the body not in the mind. Now Paul says in Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Now this is a pretty simple lesson brother and sisters, pay close attention to what's being said.

Now, Let's jump right in a conversation that Jesus was having with a man name Nicodemus. John 3:1 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.

Notice verse 3, except a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. We have just learned something here. If you are not born again you cannot see the kingdom of God. As we go further you will understand this. Remember there is a time for everything.

Nicodemus asked a very good question. Take a look at the next set of verses.

John 3:4 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.

In verse 5, born of the water in this case is the Word of God. Notice the Lord mentions the kingdom of God again, but He adds a little more information. He says "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. When he mentions spirit He means exactly that. Watch how the Lord gives something physical to describe exactly what He means.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Notice: He made a difference between flesh and spirit. Ask yourself that question, was you born flesh or spirit?

John 3:7 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.

Notice: He compared the wind to a spirit. Can you see the wind? No! We have seen things being blown around by the wind, but we have never seen the wind. If you are born of the spirit you are like the wind. This is when you are truly born again, when you are born of the spirit.

Notice: what Jesus does in these next few verses. Remember, this is after His resurrection.

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**

Note two very important things within these verses. 1. Jesus appeared in the midst of them and the doors were shut. 2. Thomas called Him God. When Jesus came out of the grave he was born into the God family, Jesus was Born Again.

B

Dear B _____,

Dear bro.tan,

Jesus was NEVER born again. Your understanding of that concept is carnal and incorrect.

Being "born again" is the same thing as being converted or being made into a new creation. The new birth occurs when a spiritually marred person is changed into a spiritually perfect person (Jer 18:4). Mankind's new birth is necessary because the original person is "condemned already" (John 3:18) because of sin. It is only the new creation (a child of God) who is not condemned and who enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

Since Jesus was spiritually perfect, He did not need to be "born again". And because mankind was created spiritually imperfect, mankind does need to be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children (no longer a babe), ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

When Christ first comes to a person to begin the conversion process, He will give them the Early Rain of the Spirit. The small amount of the Spirit will give the person "faith" and certain spiritual gifts. Then, when they are presented the Gospel, they will make a confession of faith and will enter the church. But because the person remains spiritually blind, carnally minded and unconverted, they are a spiritual "babe" who can only draw milk (Christ and Him

crucified).

In this condition, they can see the Kingdom of Heaven from afar, but they are not in the Kingdom of Heaven.

This same truth applies to the OT faithful who remained unconverted:

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises (**salvation/conversion**), **but having seen them afar off**, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, **received not the promise**: **40** God having provided some better thing for us (**the Elect**), that they without us should not be made perfect (**converted**).

Note: Jesus is the Kingdom of Heaven. When a person is "born again" (converted), they are "in Christ" and are spiritually governed by Him.

If the new babe is one of the Elect, Christ will "come again" to them "quickly" after a time of waiting.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will **appear a second time**, not to bear sin, but **to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him**.

1Cor 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you (**Early Rain**): **7** So that you come behind in no gift; **waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**: **8** Who shall also **confirm you unto the end** (**Latter Rain**), that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (**judgment**).

However, during the believer's time of waiting, they will commit fornication with Satan (believe Satan's lies over Christ's truth) and will no longer be a chaste virgin (marriage analogy applies). This is when the believer is indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ, when the Abomination of Desolation occurs, when they fall from grace and when they enter the apostate church.

These scriptures apply:

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom (**Satan's another gospel**) shall be preached in all the world (**the believer**) for a witness unto all nations (**all thoughts and beliefs of the believer**); and then shall the end come (**time of conversion**).

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (**no longer a babe/the converted Elect**). **10** For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line

upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken (by Satan).

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

To restore the chosen believer, Christ will come to them a second time and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit, followed by judgment (the Day of the Lord). This spiritual work of Christ will convert the fallen away "babe" into a spiritually "born again" child of God who no longer needs milk. This is when the believer enters the Kingdom of Heaven (Mat 18:3).

You quoted this scripture:

John 3:4 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.

When a person is given the Early Rain of the Spirit, they are "born of water". When they are given the Latter Rain of the Spirit, they are born of the Spirit and will then enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

This is the same concept that James teaches below:

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receives the EARLY and LATTER RAIN. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James made this statement to unconverted believers who had only received the Early Rain of the Spirit. They were needing Christ to "come again" and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit so that they could enter the Kingdom of Heaven. James encourages these "babes" to be patient "for the Lord draweth nigh".

Christ's second coming is not a one-time physically visible event that only happens at the literal end of this age. Christ's second coming is a reoccurring spiritual event that happens within the

lifetime of each Elect believer before they die.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Hey Joe.....I can see it's a little hard for you to see this thing, but you have to understand that Jesus is the prototype for man becoming God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; (John 10: 34,35). Now we know we must be changed physically, let's see when this will take place what type of body we will have and why. Paul will show you this in I Corinthians the 15th chapter. Take a close look and you will understand why the Lord said in John chapter 3 flesh and blood can not see the kingdom of God. Pay close attention, Paul will repeat himself several times.

I Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

Why would Paul mention the dead being raised? I Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 42 **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:** 43 It is sown in dishonour; **it is raised in glory**: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 **The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.** 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49 And **as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Look at verse 50, notice what it says "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God". Remembers Jesus said something similar to this in John chapter 3. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** This is the Fathers

Kingdom, which Jesus spoke of. During the Lord's thousand-year reign with the saint, flesh and blood beings will still be on the earth along with spirit beings. There will be only spirit beings after the second resurrection. Remember what Nicodemus asked the Lord? He asked Him, " how could a man be born again when he was already old?" And the Lord answered by saying, "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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 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." In order for you to be born again you must be changed into a spiritual body.

When will this take place?

51 Behold, **I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

At the last trump, and not a second before. No one can make the statement, "I am born again" But the Lord that came down from heaven which is Jesus. He is the only one that rose from the grave and remained alive.

B_____

Dear B_____,

When mankind sins, it happens because mankind was created with a spirit that was marred and subject to vanity. Mankind does not sin because mankind has a body of flesh and blood. The physical body merely tempts mankind to sin - it is not the cause of mankind's sinfulness.

Consider Christ:

Christ came in a body of flesh and blood just like the one that was given to mankind - however, Christ was spiritually perfect. As a result, Christ never sinned. But since mankind was made spiritually marred and subject to vanity, mankind sins and sins frequently.

To stop mankind from sinning, Christ will change mankind spiritually. This is the work that Christ is doing now under the New Covenant. It is a spiritual covenant and the works that Christ performs under the New Covenant are spiritual works. After Christ does His spiritual works within a person, they will be spiritually changed. This change is called conversion and when it happens, it is called the First Resurrection or being "born again".

Consider what Paul said below:

Gal 4:29 But as then he (son of the bondwoman, typed by Esau) that was born after the

flesh persecuted him (son of the freewoman, typed by Jacob) that was born after the Spirit, even so it is NOW.

As this verse clearly states, the new birth is spiritual and it occurs "now" while the converted person still has a physical body. When the physical body dies, the converted/born again person will receive their inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven in a new spiritual body upon their resurrection from the grave. Why? Because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of Heaven - only a spiritual body that never dies will receive that inheritance. That truth is what Paul was teaching in 1Cor 15:36-50.

Now consider what Paul says here:

1Thes 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

This scripture is a teaching on the Day of the Lord which an Elect person will experience before they die. The Day of the Lord begins for an Elect person immediately after Christ has come to them a second time and poured out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the person's spiritual blindness will be healed which will cause Christ to spiritually appear to them. After Christ appears, judgment (Day of the Lord) will commence and take the chaff from within the believer (this is why Christ is called a "thief"). After the chaff is removed, the believer will be converted and "born again". The "woman" mentioned in verse 3 is the freewoman who is about to give birth to the new child of God. It is a spiritual birth just as Paul says in Gal 4:29.

Peter also states that being "born again" happens spiritually when a person is converted:

1Pet 1:22 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: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

John makes the same claim here:

1John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Joe