



*that you may believe*

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

**John 3 : 1 - 21**

**Nicodemus and New Birth**

<sup>1</sup> **Now** there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

## **John 2: 12 ff**

Jesus in Jerusalem for the Passover

Jesus clears the Temple

Jesus upsets the Sadducees

People saw his miracles/signs and believed in Him

<sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men

# The Jewish ruling council - **The Sanhedrin**

The Great Sanhedrin Temple, Jerusalem  
69 members + President + Deputy

Chamber of Priests	23 members	Levites
Chamber of Scribes	23 members	incl. laymen
Chamber of Ancients	23 members	most venerable men

## **Sadducees**

Majority  
Elite, aristocrats, priests  
Compliant with Rome  
Conservative in belief  
Literal interpretation of Torah  
Did not accept the Prophets

## **Pharisees**

Minority  
Represented working man  
Resented Rome  
Radical thinkers of the day  
Written Torah and Oral Tradition  
Accepted the Prophetical books

**Scribes**

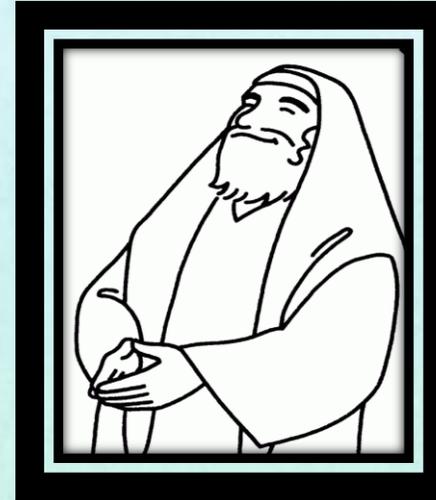
**Essenes**

**Sicarii**

**Zealots**

**Laymen**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.



No photos

**Archon** ~ A Chief Ruler

**A member of the Chamber of Ancients ???**

**Wealthy**

**Coming soon:** John 7: 50ff & John 19: 39ff

<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said,  
“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who  
has come from God.  
For no one could perform the signs you are  
doing if God were not with him.”

**Rabbi** ~ Master, Teacher,  
Technically trained in the Torah.  
He honours Jesus who has no  
formal right to the title

John 7:15

**WHY** at night?

Who are the **“WE”**?

**WHERE** did this take place?

<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said,  
“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who  
has come from God.  
For no one could perform the signs you are  
doing if God were not with him.”

“We know ...”

### **The Unspoken Question:**

Is God with you? *or* Are you God?

**2 Thess. 3: 17** I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand,  
which is the distinguishing mark of all my letters

**Luke 2: 12** This will be a sign for you



**Jesus' signs/miracles bear God's hall mark**

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked.

“Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

***Truly, truly***, repeated for emphasis

To **see** the kingdom of God, understanding who I am, comes by revelation –  
You must be born *from above*

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

<sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Concept of a new creation familiar to a Jew

[Ezek.36: 25-27](#)

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean ... I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you

[Gen.2: 7](#)

The Lord God formed man of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup> I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

<sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven –  
the Son of Man.

Jesus “ We know”

Cf. Nicodemus “we know” !

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,  
<sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

## A Lesson from History

Numbers 21: 4-9



Israel was facing death: God made a way of Salvation

– a snake on a pole

By a snake came death – by a snake came salvation/healing

Believe

2 Kings 18: 4    750 years later

The **SIGN** had become a **SIN**

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,  
<sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

## A Lesson from History

Numbers 21: 4-9

### **Believe**

Adhere to  
Place reliance on  
Trust

Israel was facing death: God made a way of Salvation

– a snake on a pole

By a snake came death – by a snake came salvation/healing

Believe

Mankind is facing eternal death: God has made a way of Salvation

– Jesus' on a cross

By a man came death – by man came also resurrection [1 Cor 15:21](#)

Believe

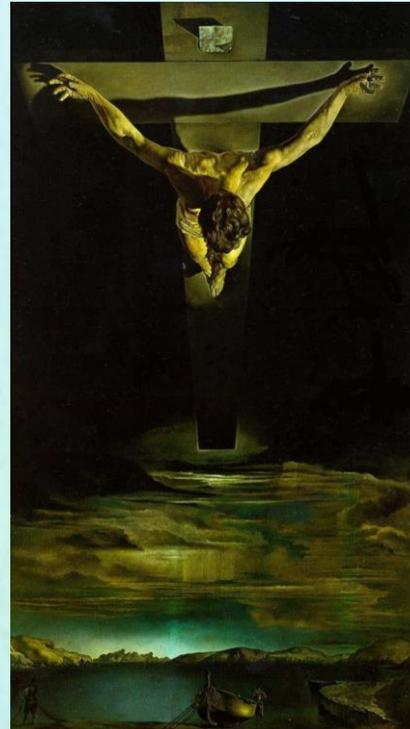
<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**God his one and only Son**

**loved gave past ... present ... future**

**believes**

**perish or eternal life**



*v.16 is the background of the canvass on which the rest of the Gospel is painted*

**1 John 4: 9-10**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

For ...

### **Mission Purpose**

not to condemn            but to save

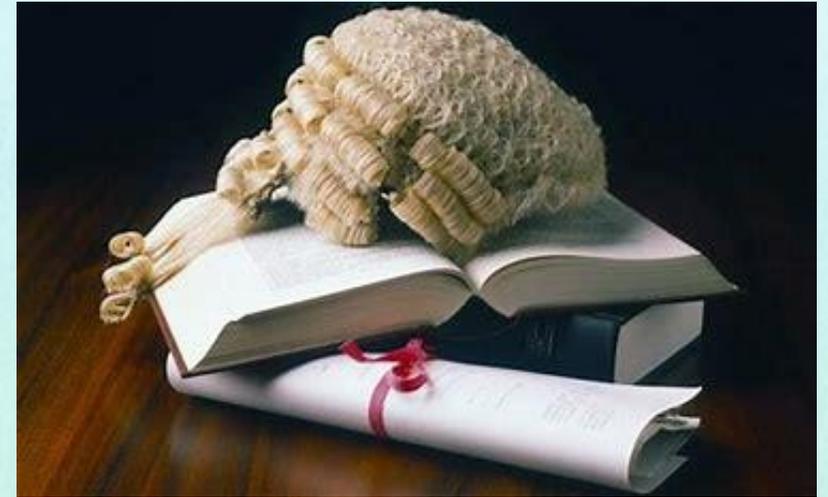
Judgement not the purpose but  
the consequence of the Mission

**Rev. 3: 19** Those whom I love  
I rebuke (convict) and discipline.  
So be earnest, and repent

<sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

<sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen clearly that what they have done has been accomplished in God.



### **FURTHER STUDY**

*John 16: 5 ff*

When he (i.e. the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement