

What Does it Mean to be
BORN AGAIN?



NKJ **John 2:23-25** Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, ²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

NKJ **John 3:1-15** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter 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 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

⁹ Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹ "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹² "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who 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 whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

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1st Century Jewish Understanding of 'Born Again'

- All Jews are assured of a place in the Kingdom of God

NKJ **Isaiah 60:21** ²¹ Also your people *shall* all *be* righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

1st Century Jewish Understanding of 'Born Again'

- They failed to understand that the Hebrew people had a long history of being 'born again' – for instance: The Exodus Story

^{NKJ} **Exodus 14:13** And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

Jewish Misunderstanding about being 'Born Again'

- They failed to understand the purpose of the Messiah in bringing them back to YHVH and back to the Kingdom.

NKJ **Jeremiah 23:5-8** " Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That **I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.** ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ " Therefore, behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' ⁸ "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

Jewish Misunderstanding about being 'Born Again'

- They failed to understand that they no longer had a heart for YHVH (Isaiah 29:13) and that both Judah and Israel had become spiritually dead, in need to YHVH to raise them up.

NKJ **Ezekiel 37:1** The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones.³ And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." ⁴ Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' " ...

Jewish Misunderstanding about being 'Born Again'

NKJ **Ezekiel 37:1** ... ⁹ Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the **breath**, prophecy, son of man, and say to the **breath**, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four **winds**, O **breath**, and **breathe** on these slain, that they may live." ' " ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and **breath** came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹ Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' ¹² "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ "Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴ "I will put My **Spirit** in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*," says the LORD.' "

Yeshua's Understanding of being 'Born Again'

^{NKJ} **John 3:3** ... "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Yeshua's Understanding of being 'Born Again'

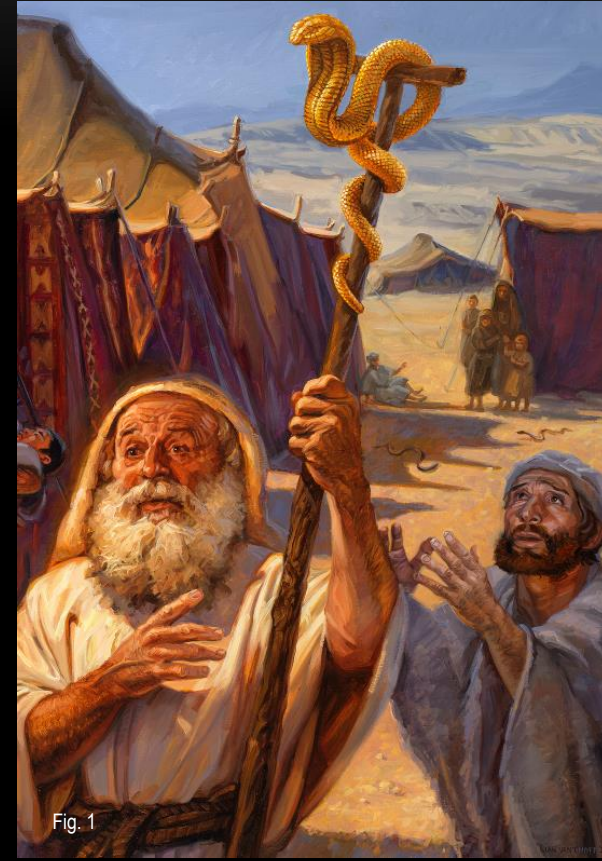
^{NKJ} **John 3:8** "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Yeshua's Understanding of being 'Born Again'

NKJ **John 3:14-15** "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Yeshua's Understanding of being 'Born Again'

NKJ **Numbers 21:4-6** Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." ⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.



Yeshua's Understanding of being 'Born Again'

NKJ **Numbers 21:7-9** Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.



What did Nicodemus do with what Yeshua had shown Him

NKJ **John 7:44-52** ⁴⁴ Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. ⁴⁵ Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" ⁴⁷ Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived?" ⁴⁸ "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?" ⁴⁹ "But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" ⁵² They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

What did Nicodemus do with what Yeshua had shown Him

NKJ **John 19:37-42** And again another Scripture says, "They shall **look on Him whom they pierced.**" ³⁸ After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave *him* permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹ **And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.** ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² **So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.**

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Fig. 1 – Bronze Serpent by Jan van't Hoff via Gospellimages.com

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם
Shalom Aleichem
Peace be Unto You