

## John 3:1

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(1)

Think about [John 3:1-3](#).

*... there was a man ... named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi (master), 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." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

- How did Nicodemus describe Jesus?
- Why did people know Jesus had come from God?
- What did Nicodemus want from Jesus?
- How did Jesus answer Nicodemus' questioning?
- What do you think it means to "see the kingdom of God"?

Consider [Luke 9:27-32](#). (Jesus said) *"I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."* Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory. ... Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

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(2)

Note: Nicodemus and the Jewish people knew the prophecies about the kingdom of God. About 400 years before Jesus was born, there lived a Jewish prophet named Daniel. God gave him a dream, and Daniel wrote down the visions he saw as he lay in his bed. This passage is one of Daniel's visions describing God giving his kingdom to the man who was worthy to be the king.

Think about [Daniel 7:13-14](#).

*I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion (the right to rule) and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

- To whom does God (the Ancient of Days) give his kingdom?

- Who will serve the king of God's kingdom?
- How long does the kingdom of God last?
- Has the kingdom of God already appeared in the way described by Daniel?

Consider [Luke 19:11-27](#). *he (Jesus) proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered ... as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me."*

(3)

Think about [John 3:3-7](#).

*Jesus answered him (Nicodemus), "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 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?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

- What is necessary in order to enter the kingdom of God?
- Why is it necessary to be born of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God? (See John 3:3-7 quoted above.)  
Also consider [1Corinthians 15:50-53](#). *I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ... For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*
- What are the two kinds of births that Jesus speaks of? (See John 3:3-7 quoted above.)

(4)

Think about [John 1:12-13](#), and [1John 5:1](#).

*... to all who did receive him (Jesus), who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born ... of God.*

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, ...*

1. How does one become born of God?