

Esteeming the Agape and Zoe of Yahweh!

John 3:16 NIV

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**.

Agape – Love of God

Zoe – Life of God

Born from Above

John 3:3 [AMPC]

Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is **born again** (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

The law of first mention says that, to understand a particular word or doctrine, we must find the first place in Scripture that word or doctrine is revealed and study that passage.

The reasoning is that the Bible's first mention of a concept is the simplest and clearest presentation.

Doctrines are then more fully developed on that foundation.

So, to fully understand an important and complex theological concept, Bible students are advised to start with its "first mention."

The message of “Born Again” or “Born from Above” was first preached to ...

- A person of influence.
- A well-respected person in society.
- An educated person.
- A person who knew about Christ, but his knowledge of Christ was incomplete.
- A curious person.

It is a necessary and relevant message for every human being because every single individual became a victim of the curse, from birth.

Therefore, how we present the “BORN AGAIN” // “BORN FROM ABOVE” message, matters.

Do you have a strategy on how you present the
“Born from Above”
Message?

Are you ...

BORN AGAIN?

OR

BORN FROM ABOVE?



Whose idea is it to be ...

1) BORN AGAIN?

2) BORN FROM ABOVE?



John 3:3 NIV

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

John 3:3 Amplified Bible

Jesus answered him, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see *and* experience the kingdom of God.”

John 3:3 AMPC

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To be “Born Again” // “Born from Above”

Is to ...

be spiritually transformed,
be spiritually renewed,
be spiritually sanctified.

What does it mean to be born again // born from above?

- Born

gennaó: to beget, to bring forth

- From Above

anóthen: from above

We are bringing forth from above [into existence who God created us to be].

Translation precedes Transformation!



1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds *and* display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

John 3:3 AMP

Jesus answered him, “[I] assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see *and* experience the kingdom of God.”

Translation precedes Transformation!



Revelations 5:9-10 NKJV

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Why Translation precedes Transformation!



1) It is a biblical pattern

1 Corinthians 15:33 NKJV

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Why Translation precedes Transformation!

2) The Lord never attempts to transform us without translating us [first, spiritually. Then physically]. This is a consistent pattern in scripture, from the very beginning.

3) One of the primary purposes of the blood of Jesus Christ is to **translate us** [move us from one place or condition to another].

Why do we sometimes want to insist on transformation without translation?

Read Acts 9:1-31



To “see the kingdom”...

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

horaó: to see, perceive, attend to

To “see the kingdom”...

Is to ...

- see with the mind [spiritually see],
- perceive [with inward spiritual perception],
- attend to kingdom agenda [be a part of kingdom activities].

To “see the kingdom”...

Is when we become aware and familiar with the lifestyle of the kingdom and begin to experience the kingdom lifestyle.

It becomes evident in our everyday journey and decision making.

¹ Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler (a leader, an authority) among the Jews,

² Who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know *and* are certain that You have come from God [as] a Teacher; for no one can do these signs (these wonderworks, these miracles—and produce the proofs) that You do unless God is with him.

³ Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb again and be born?

¹ Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees, a man with some clout among his people.

² He came to Jesus under the cloak of darkness to question Him.

Nicodemus: Teacher, some of us have been talking. You are obviously a teacher who has come from God. The signs You are doing are proof that God is with You.

[At this time, Israel's Roman occupiers have given a small group of Sadducees and Pharisees limited powers to rule, and Nicodemus is one of the Pharisees. He holds a seat on the ruling council known as the Sanhedrin, and surprisingly Nicodemus is among those who seek Jesus for His teaching. It appears that he believes more about Jesus than he wants others to know, so he comes at night].

Jesus: ³ | tell you the truth: only someone who experiences birth for a second time^[a] can *hope to see* the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus: ⁴ / *am a grown man*. How can someone be born again when he is old *like me*? Am I to crawl back into my mother's womb for a second birth? *That's impossible!*

1) Nicodemus means “victory of the people” in Greek.

- Níkos and démos = Nicodemus
- He certainly did not suffer from social isolation.
- He was involved in his community and sought the interest of the people in his community.

2) He was a Pharisee.

[The Pharisees were a group of Jews who were very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail, in keeping the letter of the Law and often opposed Jesus throughout His ministry. Jesus often strongly denounced them for their legalism.

3) He was a leader of the Jew.

Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus,
a ruler (a leader, an authority) among the Jews,

John 3:1

4) He was a member of the Sanhedrin.

[Sanhedrin is the Greek word for “council” or “assembly”]

Then Nicodemus, who came to Jesus before at night and was one of them,
asked,

Does our Law convict a man without giving him a hearing and finding out
what he has done?

John 7:50-51 AMPC

5) He seeks Jesus for His teaching.

It appears that he believes more about Jesus than he wants others to know, so he comes at night.

Who came to Jesus at night ...
[John 3:2 AMPC]

6) Nicodemus assisted Joseph of Arimathea in the burial of Jesus Christ.

And after this, Joseph of Arimathea—a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews—asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate granted him permission. So he came and took away His body.

And Nicodemus also, who first had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, [weighing] about a hundred pounds.

[John 19:38-39 AMPC]

7) He used applause to mask his deep spiritual needs.

Who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know *and* are certain that You have come from God [as] a Teacher; for no one can do these signs (these wonderworks, these miracles—and produce the proofs) that You do unless God is with him.

John 3:2 NIV

Do these
descriptions fit
your lifestyle?



The “BORN AGAIN” // “BORN FROM ABOVE”
message is not for ...

- Politically desperate people.
- Financially desperate people.
- Economically desperate people.
- Educationally desperate people.
- Socially desperate people.
- Etc.

- Individuals who hold positions of influence [over people].
- Know that there is something special about Jesus Christ yet do not want to be public about their knowledge.
- At some point will make their stand for the Lord clear.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath **translated us** **into** the kingdom of his dear Son:

¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Some Scriptural references on “Born Again” // “Born from Above”

- John 3:3

NIV

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

AMP

³ Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

Some Scriptural references on “Born Again” // “Born from Above”

- John 3:7

NIV

You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

AMP

Marvel not [do not be surprised, astonished] at My telling you, You must all be born anew (from above).

• 1 Peter 1:3

ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

AMP

Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant *and* boundless mercy has caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] to an ever-living hope *and* confident assurance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- 1 Peter 1:23

NKJV

...having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

AMP

for you have been **born again** [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] not of seed which is perishable but [from that which is] imperishable *and* immortal, *that is*, through the living and everlasting word of God.

- 1 Peter 1:23 AMP

for you have been born again [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] not of seed which is perishable but [from that which is] imperishable *and* immortal, *that is*, through the living and everlasting word of God.

- Through the Word of God.

1 Peter 1:3 AMP

Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant *and* boundless mercy has caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] to an ever-living hope *and* confident assurance **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

- Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. [Through the blood].

Hebrews 13:20 (NKJV)

Benediction, Final Exhortation, Farewell

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

If you **declare** with your mouth, "Jesus is **Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved** [sózó]. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are **saved** [sótéria].

Sózó - To Save

Sótéria - Salvation

After being born from above through the word and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John 3:3 AMP

Jesus answered him, “[I] assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] *see and* experience the kingdom of God.”

To “see the kingdom”...

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

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To “see the kingdom”...

Is to ...

- see with the mind [spiritually see],
- perceive [with inward spiritual perception],
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To “see the kingdom”...

Is when we become aware and familiar with the lifestyle of the kingdom and begin to experience the kingdom lifestyle.

It becomes evident in our everyday journey and decision making.

-Therefore, to see the kingdom of God as stated in John 3:3 is to do things in a manner that God will do them. “A person who is Born from Above is one who perceives and attends to things in a manner that God will.”

-The only way to live as a person who is Born from Above is to live by the word.

We can only live by the word when we invest time in fellowship with the Father through prayer, fellowship with the blood and study of the word.

Also, by close communion with the Spirit of God.

-It is possible to receive Jesus as “Savior” and not “Lord”.

However, it is impossible to have Jesus as “Lord” and not “Savior.”

- To have Jesus as Savior, is simply fulfilling John 3:3 .

- Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

If you **declare** with your mouth, "Jesus is **Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved** [sózó]. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are **saved** [sótéria].

Sózó - To Save

Sótéria - Salvation

- sózó: to save

- 4982 sǒzō (from sōs, "safe, rescued") – properly, *deliver* out of danger and *into safety*; used principally of God *rescuing* believers *from* the penalty and power of sin – *and into His provisions (safety)*.

-To have Jesus as Lord is simply fulfilling John 3:5 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

eiserchomai: to go in (to), enter

1) To be born of water simply means to be born ...

- from the womb [a water filled environment];

- of the word of God [the water of the word according John 1 5:3; Eph 5:25].

2] To be born of **the spirit** simply means ...

- to allow the spirit of God to be LORD of our lives by leading us in everything we do.

-The difference between one who “sees” the kingdom and one who “enters” the kingdom is that “You can choose to perceive and attend to things the way God will “perceive and attend” to them.

However, you will not let Him rule/own your life. Meaning, you still choose to function on your own terms, a lifestyle that is not surrendered to Him.

Concluding Thoughts

- Born Again // Born from Above is an experience followed by a consistent lifestyle of fellowship with the word and the Spirit of God.
- Born Again // Born from Above speaks of a lifestyle of surrender.
- Born Again // Born from Above is inseparable from living according to the principles of the word of God.

Concluding Thoughts

- When someone tells you “I am born again // born from above”, the next thing to look out for is “how submitted are they to the word of God?”
- Born Again // Born from Above is not a title, rather, a responsibility.
- Born Again // Born from Above is a relationship between us and the word of God/Spirit of God.

-Pathway of salvation, with some scriptural references.

There is no other guaranteed pathway to salvation, except that which has been provided for us in and through Jesus Christ.

i) *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12 (NIV)

ii) *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.””* John 14:6 (NIV)

iii) *“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture.”* John 10:9 (NIV)

-Salvation is a gift freely given to us because of love.

Salvation is a gift that is free to us and for us, however, it was not free for God the Father. He gave His Son, Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice.

“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” John 3:16 (NIV)

-What makes salvation strong?

Salvation is strong, sure, and steady because God the Father is the source and provider of the sacrifice. Jesus, the sacrificial lamb also qualifies.

“I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; *my God is my rock*, in whom I take refuge, my shield and *the horn of my salvation*, my stronghold.” Psalm 18:1-2 (NIV).

-Purpose of Jesus' coming.

The purpose of Jesus' coming is highlighted throughout scriptures. The ultimate reason for Jesus' birth, was to save us by dying on the cross.

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but *to save the world* through him.” John 3:17 (NIV)

-How salvation is made available.

Our faith in God grants us access to the grace Jesus Christ made available to us when he died and resurrected.

i) *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” Titus 2:11-12 (NIV).*

ii) *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” Eph 2:8 (NIV)*

-What salvation teaches us.

When we are saved, the journey continues through renewing of the mind. We begin to say “no” to ungodliness and “yes” to godliness. We live exemplary lifestyles because of salvation and as a result, our lives are read like a book, by others.

i) ““For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.*” Tit 2:11-12 (NIV).

ii) “You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. *You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*” 2 Cor 3:2-3 (NIV).

- Our works do not qualify us for salvation.

There is nothing we can do that can qualify us for salvation. That is why Jesus Christ is the only sacrifice that qualifies to cleanse us from sin.

i) He saved us, *not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.* He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been *justified by his grace*, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. **Tit 3:5-8 (NIV).**

ii) "For it is *by grace you have been saved, through faith* - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - *not by works, so that no one can boast*". **Eph 2:8-9 (NIV).**

-What to do to be saved (or what you did to be saved).

The jailer and his household received salvation because they chose to believe in the Lord Jesus. Like the jailer, we all are in captivity before salvation. Salvation provides freedom to anyone in bondage and captivity.

“He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.*””

Acts 16:30-31 (NIV).

Title: Starting Point

1) *The death of God's son guarantees eternal life [Zoe].* "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." The death of Jesus is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin.

John 3:16 NLT

2) *Admit you are a sinner.* "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." This verse says everyone has sinned. That includes me, and you. If we do not admit, we are living in denial. The only time we need help is when we recognize the area in which we need help. **Romans 3:23 NLT**

3) *God loves sinners.* “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” You may have a child, niece, nephew, etc. that you care for or care about. Can you imagine sending this child to die in the place of people who have hurt you? These people have rejected you, yet you demonstrated your love for them by sending your loved one to die in their place. This is how God has shown His love for us. As sinners we turned our backs to God; but He did not turn His back in return. He went all out, gave up His best, His only begotten son Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for us. That is the price that had to be paid for man to become free of sin and Jesus Christ paid it for you.

Romans 5:8 NLT

4) *God's Gift.* "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." A gift is different from a loan. God's gift to us is everlasting life through His Son Jesus Christ. It is the only way to salvation that God has given man. It is the only way that keeps man out of hell and guarantees His place in heaven. **Romans 6:23 NLT**

5) What must you do to be saved? “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” This is a personal confession that you must make. It must be an honest invitation of Jesus Christ into your life. If you consider your life like you are the driver behind the steering wheel, determining wherever you are going; you want to replace that driver with Jesus Christ. You want to sincerely ask Jesus Christ to become the **Master of your life.**

Romans 10:9-10 NLT

6] It is this easy to be saved. “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” Beloved, this is all it takes. Jesus Christ is inviting you today, right now, to pick up that ticket by saying the following prayer. **Romans 10:13 NLT**

“Our Father who art in Heaven, I acknowledge that I am a sinner.

I have done many things in my life that I am not pleased about, and dear Lord I am very sorry.

I recognize your wonderful love for me demonstrated through the sending of your son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for me.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

I believe that he died through crucifixion on the cross, His blood was shed, and He was buried.

I believe that you raised Him from the dead on the third day, and that He is seated at the right Hand of God the Father.

I invite Jesus Christ into my life as my personal Savior and Lord.

Thank you, Jesus Christ for coming into my life today. I pray in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.”