

# His Most Solemn Assurance

- *3 Jesus answered and said to him, “amen, amen, 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, “amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Jn. 3:1-6*

# Amen Amen

- Only found in Gospel of John about 25 times
- Prior to this only used at the end of a prayer or as a statement of verification starting at Mt Ebal.
- With two *amens* to begin His words, Jesus is making a statement He wants to be known as being very important.
- There are two here.
- ***amen amen*** *you must be born again to see the kingdom of God*
- ***amen amen*** *you must be born of water and the spirit to enter the kingdom of God*

# Have I been Born Again?

- Jesus gave His most solemn assurance that:
- If we have not been born again we cannot (does not have the power) to see the kingdom of God
- If we have not been born of water and the Spirit we cannot (do not have the power) to enter the kingdom of God.
- Obviously Jesus expected us to carefully ponder and consider these words to be certain we have been born again.
- What does it mean to be born again?

# Born Again?

- Type and antitype?
- First birth exceedingly complex and mighty
- How did God place an eternal spirit in my fleshly body?
- *“You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb,” “I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth, Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.” Ps. 139:13*
- What did Jesus mean when He said this?
- (1) what must be done it mean to be born again
- (2) what exactly is done that we are born again

# A Logical Inquiry

- Since it is directly tied to seeing (experiencing) and entering the kingdom of God when we know what must be done to enter it we will be able to see what must be done to be born again.
- When the kingdom finally came and people began to enter it, it will not be difficult to answer the first question.



# The Kingdom “at hand”

- *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Mt 3:1-3*
- *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mt 4:17*
- ἔγγιζω; transitive, to bring near, to join one thing to another: intransitive, to draw or come near, to approach; has come nigh, is at hand:

# The Coming Kingdom

- Jesus promised to give “*the keys to the kingdom*” to Peter,
- Jesus had warned Israel that “*the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it,*”
- Jesus also told His disciples, “*Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.*”
- The Kingdom would begin when Peter used the keys, it would be taken from Israel and given to a new people. It would come with Power

# The Kingdom Came on Pentecost

- The power came with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4).
- The King they rejected already reigning:
- Peter revealed Jesus “*exalted to the right hand of God,*” made both “*Lord and Christ*” (Acts 2:22-39).
- “*In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.*”
- “*I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.*” (Dan. 2:44; Ps. 2:6).



# They had to be “*Born Again*” that Day!

- The Spirit was in complete control:
- He brought the wind and the tongues of fire
- He gave the inspiration of the message.
- The prophecies were His.
- Anything Peter told them to do to use the “*keys of the kingdom*” would be “*of the Spirit*”
- When the asked Peter what they should do, Peter did not answer. The Holy Spirit gave the answer.

# The Answer Reveals the Mystery

- *“Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:36-39).*
- *When “those who received his word were baptized,” everything Jesus described to Nicodemus was fulfilled – they were born again.*
- *At that moment they were “delivered from the power of darkness: and “conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13-14), Hence “there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41).*

# Baptism = Born of water & the Spirit

- The same water in which we **die with Him, are buried with Him and are raised with Him**
- The same water that **saved Noah and his house through the ark, and saves us through baptism,**
- The **same water that delivered Israel from the slavery of Egypt, and delivered us from the slavery of sin in baptism**
- The **same water that created the circumcision of Christ by being baptized.**
- This same water is the water that Jesus described as being born again of water and the spirit.
- All this was accomplished in **the same water.**

# Other Evidence

- Eunuch he saw water he said, “*Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?*” Why would he ask that question?
- The Holy Spirit inspired Philip to preach Jesus to him: baptism was part of it.
- If Eunuch wrong why didn't he correct him? he agreed, saying “*if you believe you may.*”
- “*both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*”
- In that water the Eunuch was born again of water and the spirit.

# The Eunuch was Born Again

- This has to be the right answer because:
- As soon as “*they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more*” (Acts 8:38-39).
- Why would the Spirit take Philip away from preaching to this man if everything was not complete?
- The Eunuch had to be born again of water and the spirit, or he did not enter the kingdom of God.
- He was born of the Spirit because he obeyed the words inspired of the Holy Spirit and he was born of water when he went down into the water, was buried, and came out.



# Peter uses the Keys for the Gentiles

- As Peter described his use of the keys for the Gentiles, he said: “*God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.*” (Acts 15:7).
- He was sent by the Holy Spirit to preach “*words by which you and all your household will be saved.*”
- These “*words*” ended abruptly when the Spirit fell upon them.

# Water is Baptism!

- Since they were clearly candidates for the new birth, Peter said:
- *“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized”*
- He *“commanded them to be baptized”* (Acts 11:14; 10:47-48).
- Once again, that is the end of the account.
- If there were more or less, it would have been revealed.
- Clearly the water in being born again of water and the Spirit is baptism.

# Other Proof

- “*having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...* (1 Pet 1:23).
- Jesus gave “*Himself for her (the church), that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word” (Eph 5:25-26).*
- It was “*by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1Cor 12:13).*

# Other Proof

- *“in Christ Jesus I begat you through the gospel (1Cor 12:13), and Luke speaking of the same event said, “hearing, they believed and were baptized.” (Acts 18:8)*
- *“of his own will he brought us forth(gave birth to us) by the word of truth” Jas 1:18*
- *God “saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:4-7).*

# Still A Great Mystery to Solve

- Why Does Jesus Call This “Born Again”
- What is it about baptism that lead Jesus to say:
- *3 Jesus answered and said to him, “amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
- *5 Jesus answered, “amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [Jn. 3:1-6](#)”*
- He could have said baptism... Yet he said this. What does it mean?