

Day 2. John 3:9-15

INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

In verses 9-12, we see that although Nicodemus is a very educated religious leader in Israel, he cannot understand what Jesus has just told him in John 3:1-8 about being born again. Read I Corinthians 2:14 and explain why Nicodemus does not understand. *Spiritual things cannot be understood by the natural man (person who is not born again)*

Why should Nicodemus believe Jesus' testimony about how one is born again? Which verse in this section declares Jesus' claim of deity? (Hint: look back at John 1:51). *Verse 13 – only the Son of Man has ascended and descended into heaven*

Verse 14 reminds Nicodemus about the account in Numbers 21:5-9. Read that passage and tell what happened. *After the people of Israel complained against God, He sent poisonous snakes. When they bit the people of Israel, the only way for them to live (not die) was to look at the bronze serpent that God told Moses to hold up. The people showed faith by obeying God's command to look at the serpent and be healed. Those that looked at the bronze serpent did not die physically.*

Read John 8:28 and 12:32-33 and describe what future event Jesus is foretelling in verses 14-15. *He is foretelling his death on the cross*

Eternal life in verse 15 literally means "life of the age to come." Which keyword phrase back in John 3:1-8 do you think pictures this age to come? *Kingdom of God*

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means?

Answers will vary. Jesus is reminding Nicodemus that his testimony or witness about eternal life is true because He has ascended and descended from heaven as the Son of Man. Just as the people had to look at the lifted up serpent to be healed in Moses' day, so people will have to look and believe on the Son of Man to have eternal life.