**Gospels – Conversation with Nicodemus**

# Introduction to the Four Gospels.

# The Introduction of the King.

# Authentication of the King.

## The Acceptance of His Person.

### Belief by the First Disciples, John 1:35-51.

### Belief through the First Miracle, John 2:1-11.

### The Stay in Capernaum, John 2:12.

### The Possession of the Temple, John 2:13-22.

#### This is found in the court of the Gentiles.

#### See quote from Psa 69:1-12.

#### Resurrection of Jesus includes all three members of the Trinity.

##### Jesus – here in John 2:19

##### The Father – Eph 1:20.

##### The Holy Spirit – 1 Peter 3:18.

### Acceptance in Judea at the First Passover, John 2:23-3:21.

#### 2:23-25, Insight into Jesus’ trust of the crowd.

##### As this was Passover, it would be the time for the cleansing of sins. Therefore, the people were ready to make Jesus king.

##### Jesus did not trust them.

##### V25 – “to know” = to know from experience.

##### Is man basically good or basically bad? See Gen 6:5, Jer 17:9.

#### Nicodemus’ visit, 3:1-21.

##### V1 – connect “man” in 3:1 with “man” in 2:25.

##### V2, “God is with Jesus.” Since the people believed in Jesus, Nicodemus wanted to see if Jesus was of the type that would deliver them from the Romans. Connect this visit with the previous three verses.

##### Sketch of Nicodemus.

###### Nicodemus. NIKE = victory; DEMOS – people, as an organized mass. Nicodemus = “victory over the people” “the people’s ruler.” Perfect name for a “religious” leader.

###### Said to be one of the three wealthiest men in Jerusalem.

###### Tradition describe him as Nicodemus Ben Gorion, brother of the historian Josephus (not verified).

###### Later defends Jesus to the Sanhedrin in John 7:45-52, apparently becoming a believer after John 3.

###### Assists Joseph of Arimathea in Jesus’ burial, John 19:38-42.

###### Tradition has Nicodemus publicly declaring himself a follower of Jesus, removed from office, expelled from Jerusalem, and losing all of his wealth because of his acceptance of Christianity.

##### V2 – John contrasts darkness with light in his gospel, cf 1:5 and 3:19-21.

##### V2, what is false about Nicodemus’ initial statement? This is the same lie of liberal theology.

##### Notice the certainty of Nicodemus statement “we know.”

##### “Answered and said” is a Greek way of taking control of a conversation.

##### V5 indicates two different births. Notice how v6 clarifies this statement.

###### Born of water = ?

###### Born of the Spirit = ?.

###### Neither birth is our control.

##### V8, How is the Spirit like the “wind”?

#### V14, Review of the Wilderness generations:

##### How was the Exodus generation “saved”? Ex 12:12-13, 42-49.

##### How was Joshua’s generation “saved”? Num 21:1-9.

#### V14-15, Jesus on the Cross is the means to eternal life, appropriated through faith.

#### V16, gives the explanation for the 1st Advent of Christ. Cf 3:2.

#### Big exegetical question: where does Jesus stop talking and John begin talking in vv15-21?

#### V16, If Christianity is a religion of love, how does God’s love work?

#### In evangelism, when is the unbeliever “judged”?

#### Who was the Lake of Fire prepared for? See Matt 25:41.

#### Why do people go to the Lake of Fire, sins or works? Rev 20:11-15.

#### Compare this passage in John 3 to John 1:5-13.

#### Vv20-21, to what does “Light” refer?

#### V20, does this verse talk about “being judged” according to modern terminology?

#### How does one “practice truth”?

### The Witness of John, John 3:22-36.

#### Vv22-24, Jesus and His disciples are in a relatively peaceful holding pattern.

#### What should we be doing when life does not seem to move forward?

#### V25-26, this discussion arises from a dispute from a person trying to cause trouble. What should one do with such a person? See 1 Tim 6:3-5.

#### Look ahead to John 4:1-3, as the possible cause for the “problem.”

#### How much trouble can one person stir up?

#### Vv27-30, John the Baptist shows the correct attitude.

#### V29, John compares himself to the “best man” at a wedding. The groom should be the center of attention, not the best man.

#### Vv31-36, the Apostle John’s commentary on the previous events.