

From John 3:1-10. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE VERSUS THE PHYSICO-TEMPORAL LANGUAGE MANIFOLD.

#1. Jesus taught Nicodemus that "unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (v. 5.)

#2. Nicodemus immediately countered, "He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" (v. 4.) Nicodemus, without reflection, applied the physico-temporal arc of meaning to the Lord's words. (*Physico* is a combining term, meaning "physical.") Jesus took the ordinary words of natural language. He conscripted them and put them in a supernatural context. The Lord changed the context and the meaning of "born again" between verse 3 and verse 5.

Scripture is natural language conscripted for the purpose of God. The Lord put a prohibition on language use: The reader cannot put the terms of revelation like "born again" within the physico-temporal language manifold and expect to understand them.

Nicodemus, "a teacher," did "not understand these things" (v. 10.) He asked Jesus, "How can these things be?" He was "amazed" (v. 7.)

Why? Because the language manifold of Scripture does not make sense when put within the physico-temporal range of meaning. This range of meaning is a dead end. There is no "balance" between Bible and the physico-temporal radius of language. Real meaning and understanding are to be found beyond that arc of representation—that arc is a closed system that attempts to displace the authority of the Bible. Nicodemus, and we, must learn this most fundamental law of understanding.