



Born Again or, The New Birth

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save
that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)

Semantics Part 4

The world is quick to quote the Bible to demonstrate the view that *all* men are created in the image of God. However, according to *Genesis* 1:26, it was *pre-fallen* Adam who was created in God's image.¹ Therefore, when considering what it means to be *born again* (i.e., *the New Birth*²), we must go back to Eden; for it was there in the Garden that everything was lost.

God is a Trinity.³ Therefore Adam, being made in the image of the Trinity,⁴ was created to be a habitation of this Holy Trinity—and had the image of the Holy Trinity *in himself*. But when Adam looked outside of this Trinity *in him*, and desired to taste the evil of this world,⁵ his union with the Holy Trinity was broken, and a separation occurred.⁶ Adam lost both the life of the Son, and the life of the Holy Spirit. We know this to be true by the very Gospel message itself: For mankind is required to do two things: 1) Receive back *into themselves* the *life* of the Son of God,⁷ and, 2) Receive back *into themselves* the *life* of the Holy Spirit.⁸

Loss and Recovery

As a consequence of the Fall, everyone enters the world in a desolate state, void of the Trinity *in themselves*. Instead of bearing the image of the Thrice-Holy God, they bear the image of *fallen* Adam.⁹ For all Adam's progeny come forth without the Son, and without the Holy Ghost. This is what it means to be *born dead* in trespasses and sins.¹⁰ Only a *second birth* from above can: 1) Destroy the fallen birth,¹¹ and, 2) Enable man to return to the original perfection of the Garden.¹² Our first life in Adam was born *in corruption*; Therefore we must be born a second time *in incorruption*.¹³

But simply hearing and responding to the Gospel message will not accomplish this new birth. (That's *conversion*!) The Bible says we are to be *born again of incorruptible seed by the Word of God*.¹⁴ Peter was speaking of the *Living Word* of God—Jesus Christ.¹⁵ It is not the *hearing* of the Gospel that recovers the lost life. No. It is a *birth* that is performed *by Jesus Christ*!¹⁶ Only the *quickening* of the implanted seed¹⁷ can bring the lost *life* of the spirit of the soul back to where it originated. Only a

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new (second) birth can *return* to man the *life* of the Son of God, and the *life* of the Holy Spirit. Both were lost by the First Adam; both must be recovered by the Second Adam.¹⁸ Both were *lost* in Eden; both must be recovered for man to *return* to Eden—to once again be made in the image of God.

Born Again vs Conversion

To be born again involves much more than repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁹ The close disciples of Jesus had been converted to Him through His message. Yet they were not born again. The Old Testament believers lived and died before the arrival of their Messiah. They had faith in the One True God of Israel; but they, too, were not born again. For the new birth was not available to any—until Jesus Christ came to Earth, and through His suffering, crucifixion, death, resurrection, and ascension, made this new birth available to His followers.²⁰ Therefore the new birth *is not* conversion; the new birth comes *after* conversion. Conversion is the *conception*; Regeneration is the *new birth*. Between these two is a time of *gestation*, when the newly converted soul learns and grows in the GRACE and in the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord Jesus Christ.²¹

Born Again and Regeneration

The new birth is the beginning of regeneration—the process that leads the fallen spirit and soul back into the perfect Garden of God; for it was there that the kingdom was lost. Jesus came to restore it *to us* and *in us*. This is the true purpose for the new birth. We are born again in order to return to our first and unfallen image, and to prepare us for the coming Kingdom of God on Earth. For only those who bear the image of the *Second Adam* will rule and reign with Christ in the Millennium.²²

Baptism

Jesus sent His disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.²³ But outward water baptism was to be used only as a symbol to demonstrate what they (the Apostles, etc.) were to lead the Christians *into*. They were to teach them how to get *back to the Garden*, through the revelation of the accomplished work of the Son of God, by and through the power of the Holy Spirit of God. Water baptism teaches what must occur *within man* for his full restoration. This three-fold *inward* baptism *is* the *One Baptism*²⁴ that brings us back from the Fall, and restores once again the image of the Holy Trinity *in us*.

Trinity Divided?

Question: If God is a Trinity, and if all three are God, and if Father, Son, and Holy Spirit cannot be separated from one another (for then they would no longer be One God)—*How can the Trinity be broken up or separated in man?* *Answer:* Though the Trinity separated themselves *from* Adam—yet they did not, nor could not, separate from *one another*. Adam lost the unity of the Trinity *in himself*; But the Trinity was never broken or separated *from itself*.

He that Hath an Ear

To be born again is nothing less than the return of the lost image of the Holy Trinity. It means to be born once again *in God*—and for God to once again be born *in us*—so that we may again bear the image²⁵ of the Living God. For this reason the Thrice-Holy God sent forth the Lord Jesus Christ—to seek and recover *for man* that Divine Birth which was lost *in man*.

Continued in *Semantics Part 5 – The Indwelling*.

NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are from the King James Bible

- 1 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Gen 1:26)
- 2 The New Birth will be considered more extensively in a future study.
- 3 Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- 4 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; (Gen 1:26)
- 5 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Gen 2:17)
- 6 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man, and placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Gen 3:23-24)
- 7 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (Joh 20:31)

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. (1Jn 5:20)
- 8 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life. (Joh 6:63)

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (Joh 7:39)

And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (Joh 20:22)
- 9 As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (1Co 15:49)

- 10 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Eph 2:1)
- 11 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (Rom 6:6)
- 12 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2Co 3:18)
- 13 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (1Co 15:50)

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (1Co 15:54)
- 14 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1Pe 1:23)
- 15 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (Joh 1:1,14)
- 16 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (Joh 3:3)
- 17 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Luk 8:8)

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Eph 2:1)
- 18 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. (1Co 15:45)

The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. (1Co 15:47)

As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (1Co 15:49)

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For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:17)

19 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Act 20:21)

20 But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified. (Joh 7:39)

In the Old Testament the Spirit was only given to prophets, priests, and kings, and to others who were specially chosen to perform a specific work. However this was not the New Birth, nor was it the reception of the Holy Spirit as a permanent indwelling presence. (See Joh. 7:37-19.) When the Old Testament believers died, they did not enter "Heaven." Instead they went to Abraham's Bosom, where they remained until Jesus died on the cross. See Luk. 16:19-31, and Mat. 27:50-53.

21 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen. (2Pe 3:18)

22 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (Php 3:12)

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (Rev 2:26)

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God... (Rev 3:12)

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Rev 3:21)

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.(Rev 21:7)

23 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Mat 28:19)

24 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (Eph 4:5)

25 i.e. "reflection."