



LESSON 1:

**THE PLAN OF
SALVATION**



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I. EXTENT OF NECESSITY OF SALVATION

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

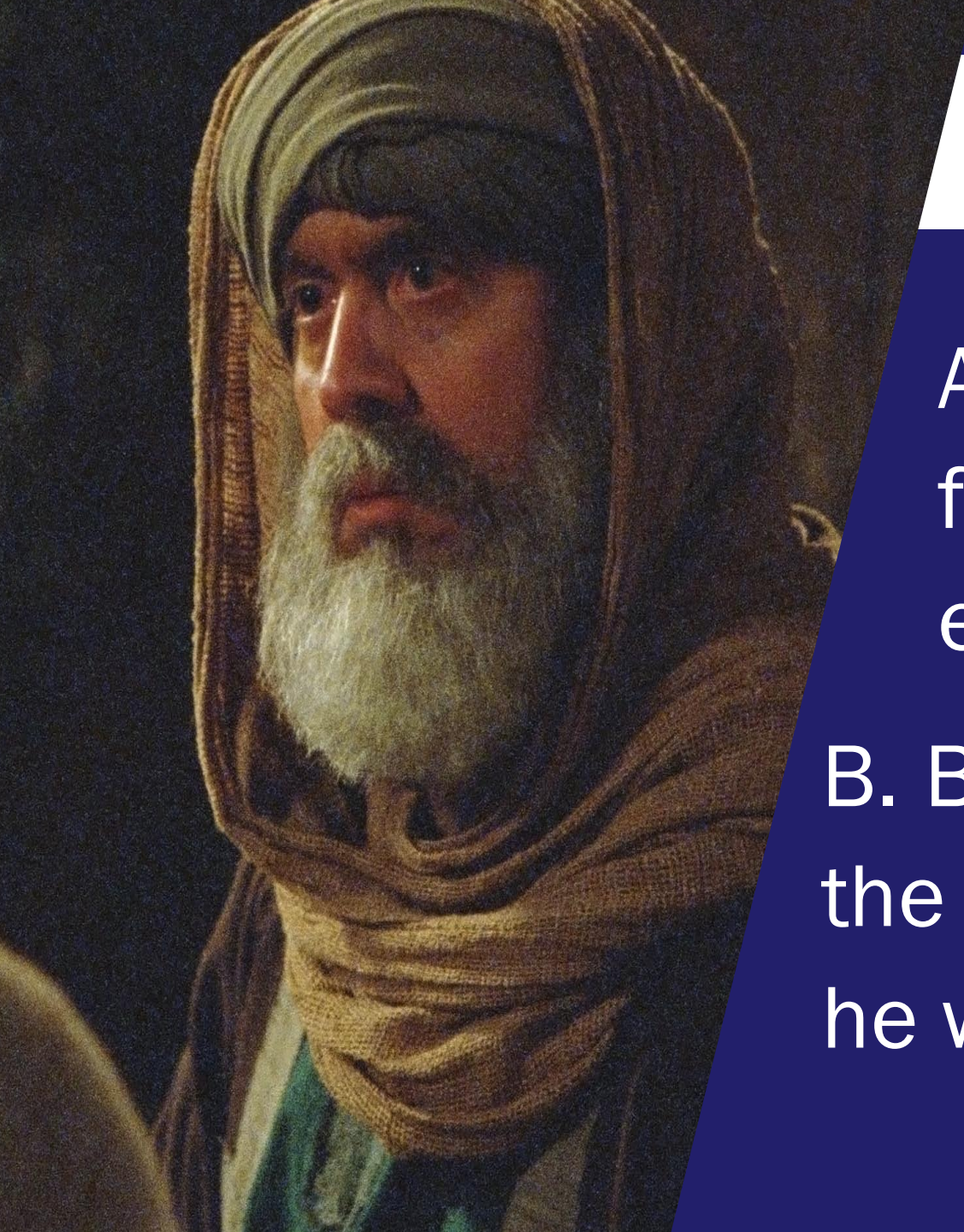
John 3:1-2

² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

John 3:1-2

WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

A. He was a Pharisee...



WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

A. He was a **PHARISEE** known for **RELIGIOSITY** (devotion to externals)

B. Being a member of the Jewish ruling council, he was a **POWERFUL** man.



WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

C. He was **CURIOUS** about the man called Jesus and **ACKNOWLEDGES** Him to be from God.

D. He was a **SINNER** and therefore, he also needed God (Romans 3:10; 3:23).

As it is written: “There is no one righteous,
not even one;...”

Romans 3:10

“...for all have sinned and fall short of
the glory of God,...”

Romans 3:23

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In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

John 3:3

BORN AGAIN MEANS ...

a change of his heart — a spiritual transformation.

New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes.

(2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1-4, 18)

John 1:12-13

indicates that being “born again” also carries the idea of “becoming children of God” through trust in the name of Jesus Christ.

A. Man's Ways (False ways)

1. RELIGIOSITY (Colossians 2:8)

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:8

A. Man's Ways (False ways)

1. RELIGIOSITY

(Colossians 2:8)

2. MORAL living

(following the 10 commandments? No one can.)

3. Good WORKS

(giving to the church)

4. Doing NOTHING at all

B. God's ONLY Way

1. Unless one is born-again he will not see God (John 3:3).
2. It is necessary that we accept His gift of salvation because this is God's only way (John 1:12).
3. It is by grace we have been saved and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

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- II. NECESSITY OF SALVATION
- III. PROCESS OF SALVATION

⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:5-8

⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

John 3:5-8

A. Born of Water, v.5a

1. Water is symbol of **PURITY**

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; ...”

Isaiah 1:18

A. Born of Water, v.5a

1. Water is symbol of **PURITY**
2. Water **BAPTISM** by John is a baptism of **REPENTANCE**. One who is born again and publicly forsakes his sin becomes **WASHED** of the past.

A. Born of the Spirit, v.5b

1. Means **BEGOTTEN** of **SPIRITUAL** life by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
2. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our **SIN** which leads us to **REPENTANCE.**

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- III. PROCESS OF SALVATION
- IV. METHODS OF SALVATION

We must **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ
as our Lord and Savior.



In Greek
“pisteuo”

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31)

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9-10

¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved – you and your
household.”

Acts 16:31

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- III. PROCESS OF SALVATION
- IV. METHODS OF SALVATION
- V. REASON/STORY OF SALVATION

16 “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

1. God so **LOVED** the world
2. That He **GAVE**
3. His only **SON**

MERCY

JUSTICE

JESUS CHRIST

God **loved us** but He cannot and will not contradict His word that a soul that sin, it **shall die**". God could not allow a sinner to go unpunished so a **substitute** had to be provided for our sins.

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- IV. METHODS OF SALVATION
- V. REASON/STORY OF SALVATION
- VI. RESULTS OF SALVATION

16 “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16-18

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-18

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18

A. Eternal life, v.16

B. Removal of Condemnation, v.18

- The believer in Christ does not come into judgment for his sins;
- The one who refuses to accept or believe stands judged by virtue of his refusal. He has decided his own fate.

CONCLUSION

In an act of faith we must open our hearts and invite and receive Christ as Lord and Savior. We must believe He can save us and that He has saved us once we accept Him. (John 1:12; 3:16-18)

Memory Verse:

Romans 5:12

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 1

- A sin to avoid
- A command to obey
- A promise to claim
- A character/habit to change