

Entering the Kingdom

Introduction

In the first 2 chapters of John's Gospel we were introduced to Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, the One who ushers in the New Age of God's Kingdom. In John chapter 3 and 4 we face the twin questions of *how* one enters this kingdom and *who* may enter. John 1vs12-13 anticipated the answer to these questions – those who enter do so by believing in Jesus' name as a consequence of God's regenerating work within them. John 2vs23-3vs36 shows us why this is so. This passage also underlines the reason why it is faith in *Jesus* which secures entry to God's kingdom; He is the One who came from heaven and who, by being 'lifted up' secures eternal life for all who believe.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the section means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 2vs23-3vs36. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Nicodemus impressed by Jesus? What was his assessment of who Jesus is? (John 3vs1-3)

2. What is Jesus' response to Nicodemus' affirmation of his ministry? (John 3vs3-8)

3. Why, in the light of John 2vs23-25, does Jesus respond in this way?

4. What is the problem with Nicodemus and those he represents? (John 3vs10-21)

5. What will the consequence be if they persist in unbelief?

6. What provision has God made for a world under His wrath? Why has He done this? (John 3vs13-21)

7. What is John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus? (John 3vs22-30)

8. According to John 3vs31-36 why is Jesus 'above all'?

Think it Through

1. Write a short, point form 'Gospel presentation' based on John 2vs23-3vs36. Over the next few weeks, try to share it with a believer and someone who is not yet a Christian