

What is Rebirth?

A Study Outline by R. Stanley

Introduction

- Jn 3:1-3 ... *Unless a man be born again ...*
“Born Again” — Quite a popular term these days
- Not the cycle of birth (Hinduism) —
but to be experienced NOW ON EARTH (v12)

What happens when you are born again —

1. Children of the devil become Children of God.

He who rejects Christ is of the devil (Jn 8:42,44a)

Jn 1:12 ... *become the children of God ...*

God has only children, not grandchildren.

Creation.

Transgression of Adam (Rom 5:14,15,18).

The substitutionary death of Christ in the sinner's place.

To be born again means

to receive Christ as our Sin-bearer & Saviour.

2. Children of darkness become Children of light.

Eph 5:8-11 ... *works of darkness ... fruit of the Spirit*

Hating the works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)

— *Adultery ...* even a lustful look

— *Idolatry ...* anything loved more than God

— *Murder ...* even hatred

Men love darkness rather than light

because their deeds are evil. Come to Christ the light —

(Jn 3:19-21)

Confession and forsaking of sin (1 Jn 1:7-9).

Publican's prayer — “*God, be merciful to me a sinner!*”

He who is born of God commits no sin (1 Jn 3:8,9)

i.e. He does not habitually sin.

eg) Lamb vs. Pig

To be born again means

to hate sin and refuse to yield to temptation.

3. Children of flesh become Children of promise.

Rom 9:6-8,30-32 } Ishmael vs. Isaac
10:3,4 }

Religious works, almsgiving, etc.

eg) Paul (Phil 3:4-7)

Cornelius (Acts 10:1,2)

Pharisee (Lk 18:11,12)

Our righteousness ... filthy rags (Isa 64:6).

Religion is sin: Man seeking God

Bible doctrine: God seeking man

Do not say, “*Abraham is our father!*” (Mt 3:9).

Salvation *not of works but of God’s grace* (Eph 2:8,9).
Not do, but done!

eg) Trying to lift oneself with the shoelace!

To be born again means to depend on the Grace of God
and the Righteousness of Christ and not on our good works.

4. Children of disobedience become **Children of obedience.**

1 Pet 1:13-16 ... *former lusts vs. holiness*

Col 3:6,7 ... *wrath of God ... disobedience ...*

Our rebellious and transgressing nature inherited from Adam.

But now a new desire to please God.

Born out of love (1 Jn 5:3) ... *not burdensome ...*

No complaint: God is a hard taskmaster!

Jesus’ Call: “*Take My yoke ...*

“*Learn of Me ...*

“*Meek and lowly* (Mt 11:28,29)

i.e. A life of yieldedness to the will of God

To be born again means

to receive a contrite spirit and an attitude of obedience.

eg) Paul — “*What will You have me to do?*” (Acts 9:6)

5. Children of Hell become **Children of God’s Kingdom.**

Mt 13:38-40,43 ... *sons of the Kingdom ...*

Heavenly-mindedness (Rich man vs. Lazarus)

Citizenship above.

Realisation of vanity.

Company of God’s Children (1 Jn 5:1,2; 3:14).

Change in basic outlook.

(What shall it profit a man? Mk 8:36 ... Rich man)

Attitude & assurance of victory!

To be born again means

to live in anticipation of the Kingdom of Heaven.

How to be born again

Repent of your sin (Lk 24:47).

Receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour (Acts 16:31).

■ **Conclusion**

If you are born only once, you’ll die twice;

If you are born twice, you’ll die only once! Rev 20:14; 21:8