

*A
Place
Prepared for
You...*

*Dedicated to
Pastor David T. Elms,
who has been a great encouragement
to me and a support for
many years.*

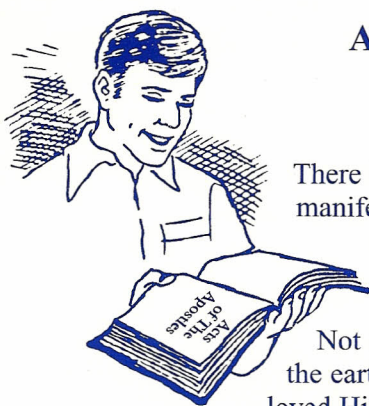
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A PLACE PREPARED FOR YOU

INTRODUCTION



There was a man named Jesus Christ, who was God manifested in the flesh. He so impacted the world that the calendar dating system was changed to B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (in the year of the Lord) to pivot around His life.

Not only did He do the miraculous while walking the earth, but He allowed Himself to be crucified for us. He loved His creation that much. The exciting news is that He rose from the dead. His Word tells us in . . .

Acts 1:3

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

I Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Jesus Christ made a special promise to all who followed Him in this life. He said in . . .

John 14:2-3

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

THIS STUDY SHOWS HOW YOU CAN BE READY . . .

QUESTIONS—CIRCLE **True or False**

The world was so impacted by Jesus Christ that the yearly calendar was changed to B.C. and A.D. **True/False**

Jesus Christ showed Himself alive after He was crucified by many infallible proofs—being seen forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. **True/False**

Jesus said to those who followed Him, I go to prepare a place for you. **True/False**

BORN AGAIN

It may be hard for a person to understand that Jesus Christ has prepared a place for all those who follow Him. The reason for this is that He is talking about spiritual concepts. The Bible says in . . .

I Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Just as an unborn child would not understand parents teaching it how to accept their love, care, food, and shelter until after it was born, the same is true in the spiritual. So to really understand, one must be born again spiritually! Let's see what Jesus said to a man named Nicodemus. . . .

John 3:3-7, 9, 12

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. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. . . . Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? . . . If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

Here, Jesus lets us know we must be born again of water and of the Spirit to see or enter into the kingdom of God. Since it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), we can claim His promises.

How is it possible to be born again? The gospel of Jesus Christ will show us.

Luke 18:27

And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

In other words, we want to make sure that we follow the plan Jesus left in His Word so that we can be prepared for the place He has for us. He lets us know the urgency to repent and believe.

Mark 1:15

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Believe in original Greek means; give oneself wholly to.)

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

REPENTANCE IS A DECISION

“A made-up mind.” We change our attitude and our mind and our actions about sin. (Inward changes show outwardly to others and ourselves we have decided to follow Jesus and obey His Word.)



Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So then the first step to being born again is repenting and believing the gospel. The next step is being born again of water and of the Spirit.

QUESTIONS—CIRCLE **True** or **False**

To see or enter into the kingdom of God, one must be born again of water and of the Spirit. **True/False**

Jesus said, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent and believe the gospel. **True/False**

Repentance is a change in our attitude and our mind and our actions about sin. **True/False**

We don't have to search the Scriptures to see if we are going to have eternal life. **True/False**

Since heaven and earth shall pass away, but the words of Jesus shall not pass away, it is profitable to follow His salvation plan. **True/False**

HOW TO BE BORN OF WATER

There are great examples in the Bible of people being born again of water.

Acts 8:30-31

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? . . .

Acts 8:35-39

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water. . .

Here, we see one being born of the water (baptized). The New Testament was originally written in Greek before being translated into English. The Greek word for baptized is baptizo (bap-tid'-zo); to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet). Jesus told us in . . .

Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

Here are some other examples of people being baptized (born of water) and what was said when they were baptized:

Acts 2:37-41

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.



Apostle Peter knew the importance of not only repentance, but also being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Other examples are found in:

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Romans 6:3-4

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Acts 10:47-48

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Note: Here again we see water and baptism in the name of the Lord (Jesus). Being baptized in Jesus' name is an exciting experience like nothing else. To have remission of sins is priceless.

Acts 19:5

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (The name of the Lord is Jesus.)

QUESTIONS—CIRCLE True or False

The eunuch in Acts chapter 8 could understand the Word of God without help.
True/False

The eunuch was baptized by going down into water. **True/False**

When people asked what they should do, they were told to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. **True/False**

When they believed the preaching concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **True/False**

HOW TO BE BORN OF THE SPIRIT

Jesus gives us insight as to what happens when one is born of the Spirit. This is truly an exciting miracle, and millions are being born of the Spirit in our lifetime. Jesus tells us in . . .

John 3:8

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Note: Wind, Spirit and Ghost in Greek are pneuma (pnyoo'-mah); Wind, Spirit, Christ's Spirit, the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost.

Note: Sound in Greek is phone (fo-nay'); sound, language

This is telling us that everyone who is born of the Spirit (Christ's Spirit, the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost) will hear a sound (language).

Mark 16:17

And these signs shall follow them that believe . . . they shall speak with new tongues.

Note: Jesus' Word is telling us a sign that follows those who believe—"they shall speak with new tongues." (Greek word is glossa (gloce-sah'); language.) The value of being born of the Spirit or Holy Ghost is priceless. There are a lot of benefits that come as a result of being born of the Spirit.

Isaiah 28:11-12

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing. . . .

People seek rest and refreshing, and here it is for all those who follow the plan Jesus gave us. Let's look at the benefits of obeying the gospel.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In addition to having a place prepared for those who follow this plan, He came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. Where can one receive these types of benefits? There is so much to having life more abundantly.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus lets us know that we shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon us. Usually people are so excited after receiving the Holy Ghost that they want to tell others. Because of the power of the Holy Ghost, we can be witnesses.

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Note: Again tongues in Greek is glossa (gloce-sah'); language.

This is being born of the Spirit. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in a new language. Jesus does not leave us guessing whether we have been born of the Spirit (Holy Ghost). There will be a brand-new language we will receive. (**Acts 1:14-15** lets us know that there were about 120 on the Day of Pentecost—including Mary the mother of Jesus, women and brethren, all continuing with one accord in prayer and supplication.) . . .

Let's look at some more experiences of people receiving the Holy Ghost years after the first outpouring:

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Note: After Peter and John had received the Holy Ghost, they prayed for others that they might receive the wonderful Holy Ghost birth. They had already been baptized in Jesus' name (born of water). After praying and laying their hands upon them, they received the Holy Ghost. Another example is found in . . .

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Here is a great example of being born again. While Peter spoke, the Holy Ghost fell on all those who heard the Word. The believers who came with Peter were astonished to see the Holy Ghost poured out on the Gentiles. (How did they know? One can't see a Spirit, but they knew that when someone was born of the Spirit or Holy Ghost they would speak in a new tongue or language.) Notice also the command to be baptized in the name of the Lord. (They still had to be born of the water.)

Here is a final example of several people being born again of water and of the Spirit, years after the Day of Pentecost. They still received the Holy Ghost with evidence of a new language. Notice also, even though they had been baptized, when they heard the message, they were baptized again in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:2-3, 5-7

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. . . . When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues.

QUESTIONS—CIRCLE **True** or **False**

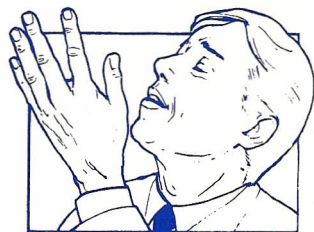
When one is born of the Spirit (Holy Ghost), there will be a sound. Greek word for sound is *phone* (fo-nay'); sound, language. **True/False**

Jesus told us a sign that would follow those who believe is that they would speak with new tongues. **True/False**

To see or enter into the kingdom of God, one must be born of the Spirit (Holy Ghost). **True/False**

It doesn't matter if we are born of water and of the Spirit as long as we just believe. **True/False**

When one is filled with the Holy Ghost, he or she will speak with other tongues (a different language) as the Spirit gives utterance. **True/False**



LET THE JOURNEY CONTINUE

A place is prepared for all those who follow the plan of Jesus. What would a person give for eternal life? In **Mark 8:36**, Jesus asked the following question:

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

This is the answer that so many have longed for! Once people experience how positive and real being born again is, they will never be the same, especially when they have no more fear of death and truly realize that Jesus has a place prepared for all those who choose His way.

Jesus has already paid the price on Calvary, with wide-open arms. He loves us that much. All we have to do is follow His perfect plan of salvation. As Jesus rose from the dead, we also can rise in the newness of life.

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

The benefits that Jesus gives are joy unspeakable and full of glory, peace of God that passes all understanding, power, love, and a sound mind. . . .

And best of all a place prepared for all those who will hear Jesus' sayings and do them.

QUESTIONS—CIRCLE the answer

Do you see how important it is to be born of water and of the Spirit? **Yes/No**

If you do, and you would like to be ready for the place Jesus has prepared, then let's talk about it.

James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Encourage the Word to be spread...

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