

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

---

**On February 21, 2013, we received the following comment and inquiry:**

“Dear brothers, this question is about a discussion I read on the supposed resurrection of Daniel to the heavens. I was not convinced by your explanation as a couple of crucial issues were not dealt with.

“The first is: John 3:3 - "unless anyone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The second is: Matthew 11:11,12 - regarding John the Baptist, "...a lesser one in the Kingdom of the heavens is greater than he is. But from the days of John the Baptist until, now the Kingdom of the heavens is the goal towards which men press, and those pressing forward are seizing it".

“If we agree on what it means to be born again, born of water and spirit, namely baptism and receiving the promised holy spirit, then by the account in John, Daniel would be required to be born again in order to see the kingdom of the heavens would he not?

“Also, why is a lesser one in the Kingdom of the heavens greater than John the Baptist, when by Jesus's own admission, "among those born of women there has not been raised up a greater than John the Baptist". Presumably, it has something to do with John not having been born again, born of water and spirit?

“I note however, that a promise of "...you will be with me in paradise" was made to a man who was not I assume born again. So is it reasonable to assume that he would see the kingdom of the heavens?

“If you could spend some of your precious time answering these questions for me I will be most grateful.”

To the author, thank you for your email and, of course, we will be happy to spend time responding to your question. We provided a response privately, but we believe it would be beneficial to our visitors if we publish our response as well.

Your first question has to do with being born again. We discuss this matter in detail in the article **Being Born of Spirit**. But cursorily, we will offer a few points:

Being born of spirit is an event that occurs after death. The pouring out of holy spirit while we are alive is called a ‘token’ not the actual spirit birth. ***Ephesians 1:13-14***. Since both John the Baptizer and Daniel experienced actual physical death, they are in the proper condition to be re-born ‘of spirit’ by way of the promised resurrection. (See **The Promised Resurrection**.)

Being born of water is **symbolic** of dying to our past life and being made anew in our thinking. It is not an actual death or an actual rebirth. ***Romans 6:4***. Again, since John the Baptizer and Daniel experienced actual physical death, they have no need of being baptized in water.

Daniel was promised a resurrection. ***Daniel 12:13***. (See **The Promised Resurrection**.) The only place where people are resurrected to is the heavens.

As to John the Baptizer, Jesus did not say that John the Baptist would not be a part of the Kingdom of the Heavens. Here is what Jesus actually said:

“I tell you, Among those born of women there is none greater than John; but a person that is a lesser one in the kingdom of God is greater than he is.” – **Luke 7:28**

We believe Jesus is referring to the fact that while John preached that the kingdom was near, he had no real concept of what the kingdom was. He died before Jesus began his ministry about the kingdom of the heavens. This does not mean that John would be excluded from the Kingdom, only that he would have a ‘lesser’ position in the heavenly kingdom than a ‘lesser’ one who had the benefits of Jesus’ teachings. Also, please note this scripture:

“But I tell you that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens.” – **Matthew 8:11**

So not only will faithful pre-Christian Jews be in the kingdom of heaven, but even men from the east and the west. Yes, all mankind is invited! We also point you to a recent article we published entitled **Faith Sons and the Heavenly Hope** that shows that many of the pre-Christian Jews had the heavenly hope!

As for the evildoer, Jesus promised that he would be in paradise. The only paradise ever referred to in the Bible is a heavenly paradise. (See **The Promised Resurrection** and **What is God's Purpose for the Earth?**) Thus, if Jesus could promise the heavenly paradise to an evildoer, surely faithful prophets like Daniel and John the Baptizer could receive the same reward, along with ‘Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and those from the eastern and western parts.’ (**Matthew 8:11**)

We find the best way to understand the good news of the Bible is to look at the plain and open teachings of Jesus. And if we attempt to interpret prophecy, those interpretations should be in harmony with what Jesus actually taught, rather than in conflict with, or going beyond, what Jesus taught. A fair and honest look at Jesus’ teachings shows that Jesus encouraged a heavenly hope for all. So did the Christian Bible writers. Never did any of them teach us to seek everlasting life on earth.

Also, remember, all the pre-Christian prophets prophesied about Jesus, and Paul explained that the good news would come from Jesus, not the early prophets or anyone else. (**Hebrews 1:1-2**) Therefore, it is error, and even arrogance, when men, proposing to be prophets 1900 years later, decide to change what Jesus and the early Bible writers taught based on their own limited comprehension of Bible prophecy. (See **Proving Ourselves Worthy of the Christ.**) We also note that many of the interpretations of this group of men in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century had to be changed or withdrawn many times; whereas Jesus’ teachings remain consistent and reliable, and even more so today.

We hope we have satisfactorily answered your questions. But if not, please feel free to write again.

“*Elaia Luchnia*”

---