

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 3: 1-17

1. There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, which means something like, “Power to the People,” a ruler of the Jews (let the reader understand the Gospel author’s bent here) and member of the Sanhedrin.
2. The same came to Jesus by night (for he desired to keep in the shadows lest he be seen by his fellow members of the Council), and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him or he be skilled with prestidigitation and super-cunning.
3. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Pick a card, any card. Know thee this though, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Then memorise it.
4. 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? If so, that would be a magic trick worthy of shewing at the Jerusalem Hippodrome. OK, I’ve chosen one.
5. Jesus answered, Put it back in the pack. Now, where was I? Ah yes. 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.
6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit; and that which is born of a chance encounter must needs make its way through life not knowing it parentage.
7. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. Just be thankful I did not say, Your mother was a hamster and your father smelled of elderberries, for that will be used in years to come to entertain the simple.
8. Know ye not that the wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth unless thou hast eaten of cabbage or beans. So is every one that is born of the Spirit. Whiffed from above, you might say.
9. Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, I have kept the dietary laws since I was a child. Well, apart from that day trip to Samaria, but it was only one rasher. How can these things be?
10. Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?
11. Verily, verily, and thrice verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen and smelt; and ye receive not our witness.
12. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, and physical things which are of thy own experience, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?
13. And in an out of character moment of Johannine mysticism Jesus declared, No man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.
14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
15. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
16. And looking at Nicodemus Jesus whispered, Remember this saying and tell it not abroad until after my glory is made known; For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. It’ll become quite catchy. And there’s more.

17. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. Now, was this your card? And Nicodemus left Him and hurried home thinking on these things, and the nine of clubs, and he comprehended them not. And it was still dark.