

the baby is born, releasing the "water" (even today we say "the water broke").

This view proposes that Nicodemus was told, "You must be born again"; and that he answered, "How is a man able to be born naturally a second time?"; and that Jesus replied "A man must be born, not only naturally, but also spiritually, since that which is born naturally is flesh (i.e., natural), whereas that which is born spiritually is spirit (i.e., spiritual). I commend this understanding to you.

What is the new birth? Let me suggest a definition:

The new birth is that act of the Holy Spirit by which a human being is spiritually reborn, thereby becoming a spiritual child of God. This implies such a tragic flaw in our spiritual nature that a radical rebirth of our spirit is necessary before we can live a life pleasing to God

B. Regeneration as a New Life

In John 5:24 Jesus says: "Truly, truly, I say to you that the one who is hearing my word and is believing the one who sent me is having eternal life, and is not coming into judgment but has crossed over from death to life." The picture is that of one who crosses a bridge spanning a chasm separating the country of death from the country of life. Notice that the believer is one who has crossed over, one who has eternal life now as a present possession!

In 1 John 3:14 we read: "We are knowing that we have crossed over from death to life, because we are loving the brothers." Here John gives a mark by which the one who has eternal life may be identified: he/she is presently loving his/her brothers and sisters in Christ.

And in Romans 6:5-11 we read:

If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. . . Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we