

But at this very point it is important to stress the question: From what other source could he have known the concept (much less the necessity) of regeneration, if not from the Old Testament? This consideration would seem to establish a strong presumption in favor of the assertion that regeneration, in some manner and to some degree, had already been revealed as a doctrine in the only Scriptures to which Nicodemus had access. And in addition, it would appear to strongly imply that, during the Old Testament period, spiritual rebirth was not only a necessity, but also a reality, at least during the earthly ministry of our Lord to Israel. And if such an admission can be made in regard to the period of our Lord's earthly ministry, there appears to be no valid or sound reason (since His earthly ministry falls within the Old Testament period) for the exclusion of this spiritual blessing during the entire Old Testament period.

This incident as recorded in the Gospel of John, together with its implications, raises the question whether there may not be yet other scriptures which imply or suggest the reality of regeneration during the Old Testament period, either in the Old or in the New Testament. However, since discussion of any such scriptures would appear more properly to fall under the theological aspect of this thesis, such discussion will therefore be taken up in the next section.