

A New Look at Old Saint Nic' (Nicodemus)

Dr. John Niemelä

Message of Life Ministries (California)

www.mol316.com john@mol316.com

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INTRODUCTION

JOHN 2:13–17: Jesus' First Cleansing of the Temple

Chronology:

Jerusalem (2:13–3:21)		Judean Countryside (3:22–4:3)	Samaria (4:4–43a)	Galilee (4:43b–54)	Jerusalem (5:1ff)
Passover (April 7, AD 30)	Unleavened Bread (April 8–14, AD 30)	Unspecified Period	Two Days	6 months?	Oct 30

GALILEE <i>Cana</i>
SAMARIA <i>Sychar</i>
<i>Jerusalem</i>
JUDEA

JOHN 2:18: Some Judeans Demand a Sign from Jesus

The term *Ioudaios* means *Judean* in John (cf. 7:1). In other books, it *can* mean *Jew*.

These angry Judeans may have been (1) religious officials, (2) merchants, or (3) both.

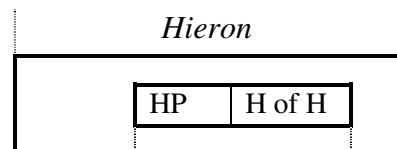
They have now noticed the many signs that Jesus did (John 2:23; 3:2)

JOHN 2:19, 21: The Cross & Resurrection = the Sign Authorizing Cleansing the Temple

JOHN 2:20: They Doubt that He Could (in 3 Days) Rebuild the *Naos* that Stood 46 years

The *hieron* was still incomplete in AD 70

Temple Complex >>>



Josephus dates the *naos* (Holy Place/Holy of Holies) in 16–15 BC

Our English translations do not distinguish between the *hieron* and the *naos*.

JOHN 2:22: Only after Jesus' Resurrection Did His Disciples Understand/Believe Jn 2:19

Even so, they had everlasting life prior to Jesus' resurrection: John 2:11; 13:10; 15:3)

JOHN 2:23: Many Believed in Christ when They Saw the Signs

Is it a problem that they believed because of the signs? No, cf. John 20:31

Is it a problem that they believed in His name? No, cf. John 1:12 and 3:18

JOHN 2:24–25: He Did Not Entrust Himself for these New Believers to Testify about Him

They are new believers. It is not that they were substandard to other new believers

CONNECTING JOHN 3:1 WITH 2:24–25

The untranslated *Now* in verse 1

The uses of *man* in 2:24–3:2

Implication 1: John 3:1ff occurred while Jesus was in Jerusalem

Implication 2: Nicodemus was one of these who came to believe during the feast

JOHN 3:1–2: When Nicodemus Came, He (and Others) Already Knew that God Had Sent Jesus

JOHN 3:12: Nicodemus (and the Others He Represented) Had Not Yet Believed in Christ

JOHN 3:21: ADVICE FOR A NEW BELIEVER

What Does *Comes to the Light* mean?

Sequence of events:

Does the truth

Comes to the light

That his deeds (which he does) may
be seen to have been done in God

The common (but Incorrect) View: *Comes to the Light* means *believes*

If so, *doing the truth*

occurs prior to believing in Christ

If so, *his deeds were done in God*

occurs prior to believing in Christ

The correct view: *Comes to the Light* refers to events after believing in Christ

If so, *doing the truth*

occurs after believing in Christ

If so, *his deeds were done in God*

occurs after believing in Christ

Coming to the Light refers to living one's life in relation to Christ & His word

DID NICODEMUS LIVE HIS LIFE IN RELATION TO CHRIST AND HIS WORD?

JOHN 7:37ff.: Nicodemus Takes a Public Stand for Christ at Tabernacles (9-17-32)

JOHN 7:37–39: Christ Testified concerning Himself

JOHN 7:40–44: The Crowd Is Divided

JOHN 7:45–49: Chief Priests and Pharisees Sought to Lynch Jesus

JOHN 7:50–51: Nicodemus Urged Convening a Trial in which Jesus Would Testify

JOHN 7:52: The Other Leaders Ridiculed Nicodemus, but Did Not Arrest Jesus

JOHN 19:38–42: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea Claimed the Body of Jesus

John 19:38–39 speak of them as secret disciples

Does John condemn Nicodemus and Joseph for being secret disciples?

What is the issue?

APPLICATION