

John 3:1-18 – Study Leader’s Questions

1. *What can we learn from Nicodemus about what a Christian is NOT? What were his ‘good’ points?*
2. *Why were none of these good enough to make him right with God?*
3. *What does being born again/born from above mean and imply (John 3:3, 5, 7)?*
4. *Why does Jesus use the illustration of the wind (John 3:8)?*
5. *Why should Nicodemus have understood what Jesus was talking about?*
6. *Who is the ‘we’ and ‘our’ that Jesus refers to (John 3:11)?*
7. *Why does Jesus remind Nicodemus of the Old Testament story about Moses and the snake (John 3:13-15)?*
8. *What connection does John 3:16 have on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus?*
9. *How does this encounter help us to reach those who do not believe today?*

John 3:1-18 – Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of John* pp 91-110 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 6-8, 21-22, 256, 1105, 1386-1388, 1649 for detailed comments and additional information.

1. *What can we learn from Nicodemus about what a Christian is NOT? What were his 'good' points?*

A Christian is a paradox, a living contradiction. He may be all of the following but *as a Christian*, he is none of them:

- A good man
- A religious man
- A respected man
- An educated man
- A prominent man
- An honest man
- A humble man
- A God-fearing man even one like Cornelius, a disciplined, caring man and *"A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway"* Acts 10:2 or Apollos *"an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures...instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit"* Acts 18:24-25.

All of those qualities applied to Nicodemus but so did Psalm 39:5.

"...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity..."

As Paul states in Romans 8:8

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

That said, God can put such a man in contact with the Lord Jesus Christ, directly in Nicodemus's case, today by means of those, minus angelic visions Acts 10:3-6, like Peter who *"shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do"* Acts 10:6 or like Aquila and Priscilla who with Apollos *"took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly"* Acts 18:26. Note the following verses:

"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" Isaiah 66:2, which could apply particularly to Apollos, who humbled himself to heed Priscilla and Aquila.

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13, which could apply particularly to Nicodemus, who voluntarily *"came to Jesus by night"* John 3:2.

"God...will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life" Romans 2:5-7, which could apply particularly to Cornelius, *"which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway."*

Seeking the Lord as Nicodemus, Cornelius and Apollos did and finding Him as they did is summed up in this extract of a letter from a fond father to a beloved daughter.

“DEAR DAUGHTER...

“...And thus to be a seeker is to be of the best sect next to a finder; and such an one shall every faithful humble seeker be at the end. Happy seeker, happy finder! Who ever tasted that the Lord is gracious, without some sense of self, vanity, and badness? Who ever tasted that graciousness of His and could go less in desire — less than pressing after full enjoyment? Dear Heart, press on; let not husband, let not anything cool thy affections after Christ...That which is best worthy of love in thy Husband is that of the image of Christ he bears. Look on that, and love it best, and all the rest for that. I pray for thee and him; do so for me...

“I am, Thy dear Father,

“OLIVER CROMWELL.”

See:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Cromwell
www.military-prints.com/daughters.htm
www.heritage-history.com/www/heritage-books.php?Dir=books&author=ross&book=cromwell&story=army. The letter was to Cromwell’s daughter, Bridget.

2. Why were none of these good enough to make him right with God?

John 3:3 explains why. This verse should be memorised. See also Romans 8:8, *Question 1*. **“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

3. What does being born again/born from above mean and imply (John 3:3, 5, 7)?

- It is a *second* birth, being **“born again”** John 3:3.
- It is a *spiritual* birth in that a man must **“be born of water and of the Spirit”** John 3:5.
“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” John 1:12-13, noting that **“God is a Spirit”** John 4:24.
- It is a *miraculous* birth, John 3:3, 5, 7 by the word of God*, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”** 1 Peter 1:23. *Note the words of the Lord Jesus Christ **“I say unto thee”** John 3:3, **“I say unto thee”** John 3:5, **“I said unto thee”** John 3:7.

4. Why does Jesus use the illustration of the wind (John 3:8)?

Man cannot control the new birth any more than he can control the wind, only God can with respect to both.

“Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son’s name, if thou canst tell?” Proverbs 30:4.

The wind is also likened to God’s life-giving spirit in Ezekiel 37 and the passage on the valley of dry bones, a passage that Nicodemus would have known about.



Oliver Cromwell, 1599-1658
Portrait by Samuel Cooper



Bridget Cromwell 1624-1662

“Then said he unto me, *Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army*” Ezekiel 37:9-10.

“And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, *And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD*” Ezekiel 37:13-14.

5. *Why should Nicodemus have understood what Jesus was talking about?*

Nicodemus was **“a *master of Israel*”** John 3:10, one of **“*the doctors*”** Luke 2:46, where his first encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ may have been, twenty years before and therefore one of **“*the doctors of the law*”** Luke 5:17 i.e. LL.D, Ph.D, Th.D etc.

Besides Ezekiel 37:9-10, 13-14, Nicodemus should have remembered Genesis 3:15, Psalm 22:30, Ezra 9:2*, Isaiah 6:13, with the virgin birth in the next chapter, Isaiah 7:14.

*which explains Ezra’s distress in Ezra 9:3, see Nehemiah 13:23-31 and the Nehemiah 13 study www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php.

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and *between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*”

“*A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.*”

“For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: *so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.*”

“But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: *so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.*”

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*”

“The holy seed” would be Israel’s **“*substance thereof*”** from which **“*the Messiah the Prince*”** Daniel 9:25 would come **“*Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us*”** Matthew 1:23 with John 3:2 **“*for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him*”** that is, the Lord Jesus Christ Whom *spiritually* would bring about the new birth by the holy seed to yield a generation, still generating, that would serve Him still does and always will.

Nicodemus could have known all this by **“*...the words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual*”** 1 Corinthians 2:13 with John 6:63 **“*the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*”**

Nicodemus could and probably should have known it then. At least saved individuals can know it now.

6. *Who is the 'we' and 'our' that Jesus refers to (John 3:11)?*

They include the Members of the Godhead, Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9, Who witnessed the crucifixion before it happened, noting the association with **"a seed"** Psalm 22:30. See *Question 5*.

"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet" Psalm 22:16. See Psalm 22:12-24. Observe that the Members of the Godhead testified to the Lord Jesus Christ at His baptism.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" Matthew 3:16-17.

They include **"the true worshippers"** to whom John 4:22-23 refers.

"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

"The true worshippers" in the Lord's time were those of whom He said **"Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations"** Luke 22:28 and after Pentecost of Acts 2 would receive the new birth of 1 Peter 1:23 **"by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."** See *Question 3*.

They now include all the Lord spoke of in John 17:20 **"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word"** i.e. saved folk now*, John 3:33. *Note the plural **"Ye," "ye," "you," "ye," "ye," "you"** John 3:7, 11, 12. The Lord is preaching to **"the world"** John 3:16 **"and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen"** Mark 16:14, even before the Great Commission Mark 16:15. See John 3:32.

7. *Why does Jesus remind Nicodemus of the Old Testament story about Moses and the snake (John 3:13-15)?*

Nicodemus would have known of the incident in Numbers 21:6-9. It pointed to the crucifixion that Psalm 22:12-24 describes, about Nicodemus also would, or should have known.

Just as **"...it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived"** Numbers 21:9, **"so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life"** John 3:14-15.

Note that in Numbers 21:9, salvation was through *seeing*, in John 3:14-15, salvation, then as now, is through *believing*, as the Lord said to Thomas.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" John 20:21.

Paul reinforces the Lord's words in Romans 10:17. Again **"the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation"** Ephesians 1:13 is central to and obligatory for the blessing. See also 1 Peter 1:23 again, *Question 3, 6*.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

The brass serpent was set up because the Devil is the author of sin and he is now **"that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan"** Revelation 12:9, Genesis 3:1, Ezekiel 28:13, 14, 15, 16 so that the Lord Jesus Christ had to become as the Devil as Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 5:21 **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."**

That is why Psalm 22:6, Isaiah 52:14 state so vividly of the Lord Jesus Christ in His humiliation:

“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.”

“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:”

Note that “worm” is an Old English word for dragon, as in *The Lambton Worm*, a fearsome monster that according to legend ravaged the northeast of England in the 14th century and was slain gallant crusading knight Sir John Lambton.

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambton_Worm.

Such accounts would derive from Job 41.

“Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?” Job 41:1.

“None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?” Job 41:10. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Job* pp 603-604, 610-615.

As with brave Sir John, the Lord Himself is the Victor, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12.

“He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him.”

It should be noted finally that with Satan **“the anointed cherub...cast...as profane out of the mountain of God”** Ezekiel 28:14, 16, only four cherubim are now present about the throne of God, Ezekiel 1:5, 10, 10:14, Revelation 4:6, 7. The aquatic and reptilian class of creatures is not represented. Their representative was Satan, who is **“cursed above all cattle”** Genesis 3:14 because **“the face of a cherub”** is **“the face of an ox”** Ezekiel 1:10, 10:14, which is why the Devil is portrayed *rightly* as a hoofed, horned, bovine creature with a barbed, serpentine tail. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 119-126. The Devil, it should be noted, has five castings out. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians* p 558.

- From what is now the third heaven* to what is now second heaven, Genesis 1:2, Isaiah 14:12 concerning **“Lucifer, son of the morning”** Ezekiel 28:16, 2 Corinthians 12:2. *Only two heavens, 2 Peter 3:5, existed in Genesis 1:1, God’s heaven i.e. now **“the third heaven”** and **“the heaven”** created in Genesis 1:1
- From what is now the second heaven to what is now the first heaven, Luke 10:18
- From what is now the first heaven to the earth, Revelation 12:9
- From the earth to **“the bottomless pit”** Revelation 20:1, 2
- From the pit to **“the lake of fire”** Revelation 20:10 **“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”** This is encouraging.

With subtle irony, because the Lord said **“I am the LORD that healeth thee”** Exodus 15:26 and Malachi 4:2 states of the Lord Jesus Christ that **“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings”** fulfilled in part at the First Advent as summarised by Matthew 8:17 citing Isaiah 53:4 **“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses”** the Medical Corps has adopted a serpent coiled around a pole, Numbers 2:8, 9, John 3:14, 15 as its insignia.

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Army_Medical_Corps.



Illustration of John Lambton
battling the Worm

8. *What connection does John 3:16 have on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus?*

Red Letter Edition Bibles e.g. E-Sword have John 3:16 as part of the Lord's reply to Nicodemus beginning in John 3:10 and extending to John 3:21. Nicodemus is among those like anyone from that time up to the present included in the single word "*whosoever*" as in Revelation 22:17, noting that the invitation is now extended by "*the bride, the Lamb's wife*" Revelation 21:9 with 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, the Lamb and the bride being identified respectively as "*Christ and the church*" in Ephesians 5:31-32.

"And *the Spirit and the bride* say, *Come*. And let him that heareth say, *Come*. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Isaiah 55:6-7 also apply now and for anyone outside of the Lord Jesus Christ should be followed up without delay.

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Note in passing that God's love for the unsaved is never declared in scripture i.e. "*the new testament*" 2 Corinthians 3:6 apart from Calvary and it is never declared in the present tense. In John 3:16, God's love for the unsaved is therefore given in the *past* tense i.e. "*God so loved...that he gave...*"

To state that God loves, present tense, the unsaved sinner is heresy according to John 3:36. Note that it is "*the wrath of God*" not the love of God that "*abideth*" present tense on the unsaved sinner *now*.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."




Cap Badge of
the Royal Army Medical Corps
In Arduis Fidelis
Faithful in Adversity

Note further that the Lord forbade firestorms on those that did not receive Him at the First Advent, Luke 9:54, 55, 56 but He will unleash them without mercy on those who have not received Him when He returns at the Second Advent.

“...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

See also Ezekiel 39:6. Note that Ezekiel 39:6 covers all of Europe from the Ural Mountains to all points west and may include the USA, which as a nation is largely descended from Western Europe. It is not difficult to identify **“them that dwell carelessly in the isles.”**

“And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.” See also Matthew 13:41, 42.

The Lord’s Return will dwarf the WW2 firestorms that ravaged Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, Tokyo and, by means of thermonuclear devices, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Imagine Central London: 

See:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_bombing_during_World_War_II

www.fogonazos.es/2007/02/hiroshima-pictures-they-didnt-want-us_05.html.



Hiroshima after the Bomb, August 6th 1945

9. *How does this encounter help us to reach those who do not believe today?*

The encounter shows that for a non-believer:

- You need to be saved: **“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”** John 3:3, *Question 1.*
- You cannot save yourself: **“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”** John 3:5, *Questions 1, 3.*
- You need a Saviour: **“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven”** John 3:13, *Question 7.*
- The Lord Jesus Christ is that Saviour: **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life”** John 3:14-15, *Question 7.*
- The Lord Jesus Christ invites you (twice) to believe on Him for salvation, to escape condemnation and to receive the new birth: **“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”** John 3:16, *Question 8.*

As Paul exhorts in 2 Corinthians 6:2 **“For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”**

The above essentials must be conveyed according to Colossians 4:6 **“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”** but they must be conveyed.

The Deficiencies of the NIV in John 3

1. John 3:2, 3, 5, 13, 32. “**Man**” is changed to “*one*” to promote gender neutrality/equality.
 Re: gender neutrality/equality, observe the following statistics for the words “*man*,” “*men*”:
 AV1611: 4643 times
 NKJV: 4017 times
 1984 NIV: 4276 times
 2005 TNIV (the 2011 NIV will be similar, though probably lower): 2410 times i.e. a giant leap downward from 1984 to 2005, over a mere 20 years approximately. The trend is to gender neutrality/equality, “*one*” is often used instead of “*man*” in the 2011 NIV.
 See biblewebapp.com/niv2011-changes/.
 “**Men**” 2 Samuel 10:12 will not be drawn to an NIV-based church, or any modern version-based church.
2. John 3:3, 5, 11. “**Verily, verily**” is changed to “*I tell you the truth.*” The Lord’s twofold witness to the veracity of His words is halved, below the minimum number required for a valid testimony in scripture, John 5:31-37, 8:13-18, 10:25, 2 Corinthians 13:1. This change is much more serious than it may first appear. Ingenious in its subtlety, Genesis 3:1, it subverts the validity of the Lord’s words while appearing to do the exact opposite.
3. John 3:10. “**Master**” changed to “*teacher,*” promoting (for now) one-world ‘equality.’ See *New Age Versions* by Gail Riplinger Chapter 21 *Antichrist: The World Teacher*. The Lord obviously recognised Nicodemus as “**a master of Israel**” not simply “*Israel’s teacher*” but the term “**master**” here shows that even an expert in Judaism, Acts 22:3, Galatians 1:13, 14, needs God’s revelation about the new birth, John 3:3, 5, 8.
4. John 3:13. “**He**” is changed to “*the one.*” See *New Age Versions* Chapter 5 *The One vs. the Holy One* concerning the coming New Age false messiah, who is Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12. See *Question 7*.
5. John 3:13. “**which is in heaven**” is cut out by the NIV, in an attack on the Lord’s omnipresence. The omission, like most alterations to the AV1611 by the modern versions, has very little and mostly disreputable support from ancient witnesses. See *Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version, A Closer Look!* by J. A. Moorman, p 101.
6. John 3:15. “**Should not perish**” is cut out by the NIV. The omission, like most alterations to the AV1611 by the modern versions, has very little and mostly disreputable support from ancient witnesses. See *Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version, A Closer Look!* by J. A. Moorman, pp 101-102. Note that the 2011 NIV changes the 1984 NIV wording “*everyone who believes in him may have eternal life*” to “*everyone who believes may have eternal life in him,*” which is false doctrine. The 1984 NIV had changed the 1978 NIV incorrect reading “*everyone who believes may have eternal life in him*” to “*everyone who believes in him may have eternal life*” but the 2011 NIV changed it back again. Note 1 Corinthians 14:33 “**For God is not the author of confusion...**” God is clearly not the Author of the NIV, which appears to have been written by either a woman (Revelation 17:1-5) or an effeminate male (Daniel 11:37, Romans 1:27, Jude 7), according to linguistics experts who have noted the excessive use of syllables in the NIV compared to the 1611 Holy Bible. See *The Language of the King James Bible* by Gail Riplinger p 115.

7. John 3:16, 18. “**Only begotten Son**” is changed to “*one and only Son*” by the NIV*. The NIV reading is wrong because (never mind ‘the Greek’):

*1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs from the International Bible Society. The Gideons 1996, 2007 NIVs have “*only begotten Son*” in John 3:16, 18.

- Adam was God’s son by creation “*of the dust of the ground*” Genesis 2:7, Luke 3:38
- Israel is God’s son as a nation, Hosea 11:1
- angels are God’s sons spiritually but also by creation, Genesis 6:2, Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7, Acts 23:8, Hebrews 1:7
- the Lord Jesus Christ is God’s “*only begotten Son*” Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18, 20, 21, Luke 1:27-31, 34-35, 2:33, 43, John 1:14, 18, 3:16, 18, Hebrews 1:5, 1 John 4:9. It was of course known in “*the old testament*” 2 Corinthians 3:14 that God had a Son, Proverbs 30:4, Daniel 3:25, in a special sense, “*whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*” Micah 5:2 but the Lord’s pre-incarnate “*goings forth*” do not in any way detract from Him as God’s “*only begotten Son.*”
- Christians are sons of God by adoption, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:5, Ephesians 1:5. See also Hebrews 2:10.

“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

God therefore has five kinds of sons, not “*one and only,*” even though the NIV tries to avoid the problem by keeping the capitalisation for S in the word “*Son.*” See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1336, 1387.

Note that, unlike the expression “*only begotten Son,*” which explains how “**the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)** full of grace and truth” John 1:14, the expression “*one and only*” is superfluous if S the word “*Son*” is capitalised. It is like saying ‘the one and only British Monarchy.’ The term ‘one and only’ is redundant in the context, as the scripture itself shows, with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ Who is “***the Rock***” in scripture, capital R, when referred to as such directly by the scripture (Matthew 16:19 notwithstanding), never the ‘one and only Rock’ because scripture only recognises *one* Rock, capital R, in all 7 occurrences of the word:

“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” Deuteronomy 32:4.

“But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation” Deuteronomy 32:15.

“How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?” Deuteronomy 32:30.

“For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges” Deuteronomy 32:31.

“The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God” 2 Samuel 23:3.

“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ” 1 Corinthians 10:4.

Well did the Lord Jesus Christ distinguish between the AV1611 and the NIV in Matthew 7:24-27, even if capital R is not used in the passage.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

Amen.

- Concerning the translation aspect, see this extract from this writer’s work “O Biblios” – *The Book* p 336 with additions in the uploaded file pp 260ff.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/.

The TBS Article No. 58 *The Only Begotten Son* cites “Professor Cremer’s great *Lexicon of N.T. Greek...*” as giving “monogenes – “only-begotten”.” Gail Riplinger [*New Age Versions*] p 342 states “*The Greek word preceding ‘Son’...is always “monogenes,” a two part word in which “mono” means ‘only’ or ‘one’ and “genes” means ‘begotten’, ‘born’, ‘come forth’.* Buschel, in his definitive treatise on the meaning of the word ‘monogenes’ said, “*It means only-begotten.*” All inter-linear Greek-English New Testaments translate it as such.”

Nestle is no exception and even Vine - no friend of the AV1611 - gives “only begotten” as the meaning of “monogenes,” adding that it “*has the meaning “only” of human offspring, in Luke 7:12; 8:42; 9:38*”...

The TBS Article No. 58 [states further]: “*The Old Latin translation was made not later than the 2nd century, and it is significant that the translators who were in a position to know how the word MONOGENES was understood by contemporary Greek Christians, rendered it UNIGENTIUS - “only-begotten,” not UNICUS – “only.” It is therefore clear that the rendering “only begotten Son” in the Authorised Version is well supported by ancient evidence*”...

See...Will Kinney’s detailed article brandplucked.webs.com/articles.htm *John 1:18 the only begotten Son* and note the following additional material from www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php *KJO Review Full Text* pp 422ff [on] Dr Mrs Riplinger’s remarks with respect to the arch-Bible critic James White...

Dr Mrs Riplinger [www.avpublications.com/avnew/content/Critiqued/james1.html] *The James White Controversy Part 1*] writes, her emphases, with respect to White’s...opinion of “**only begotten.**”

“*There is a bird which is named the Phoenix...the **only one**...makes for itself a coffin of frankincense and myrrh...then dies. But as the **flesh rots**, a certain **worm** is engendered which is nurtured from the moisture of the dead **creature** and puts forth wings...It takes up that coffin where are the bones of its parent, and carrying them, it journeys...to the place called the City of the Sun.*”

“*This depraved pagan parody of the death, burial, and resurrection of our precious Saviour is given by NIV editor Richard Longenecker to ‘help’ us understand WHY the NIV translates John 1:14 and 1:18 [and John 3:16, 18] as “One and Only” instead of “only BEGOTTEN” (see *The NIV: The Making of a Contemporary Translation*, pp. 119-126). He points also to such occult literature as the magical papyri’s “One”, Plato’s (*Critias*) “one,” and the Orphic Hymn’s (*Gnostic*) “only one”. He cites numerous other early Greek writers, like Parmenides, head of the Eleatic School. He brought **pantheism** to the West after his trips to India and initiation into the Greek mysteries. Do we look to a pantheist and their god ‘the One’ to alter **our** view of God?*”

“Longenecker chides the KJV’s “begotten Son” because “it neglects the current [time of Christ] usage for the word.” Current usage amongst PAGAN OCCULTISTS should **not change** how Christians use words! He and the NIV translators have broadened the “semantic range of meaning” (Longenecker p. 122) to include the broad way that leadeth to destruction. The translators of the **King James Version** were *so* highly educated that they not only **knew of** these Greek quotes, but knew **who** Parmenides was and what he taught. They wouldn’t touch such pagan sources. Either the NIV translators are **ignorant** of the philosophies of those they cite, like Aeschylus, Plato and Parmenides, and the Orphic Hymns **or** they are **sympathetic** to such ideas...

“Anyone who has spent years studying the **resources** used to **generate** the definitions seen in Greek lexicons will get a chuckle out of White’s comment: “I explained that she was in error regarding the meaning of monogenes, and explained the actual meaning of the term.” Even Longenecker **admits** the translation of monogenes [only begotten] and huioi [Son] “have become bones of contention among Christians.”

“**Real** scholars like Buchsel (*The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. IV, pp. 737-741) allot five entire pages of lexical evidence to the meaning of monogenes. Buchsel proves that White’s “actual” definition of monogenes is **only** that of a **few** pagan philosophers. New version editors and advocates seem to pick the pagan lexical definition, time after time. (Imagine, for example, if 2000 years from now, a lexicographer reviewed our culture’s use of the word “love.” They would find the KJV’s definition of ‘charity’ **and** Hugh Hefner’s definition of ‘sex’.)

“White may not understand my response in *Which Bible Is God’s Word?* [p 155, 2007 Edition], but Buchsel does, and agrees with **me**. He says, “Though many will not accept this; he here understands the concept of sonship in terms of begetting.””

That is, the AV1611 is right and the other versions that depart from it are wrong, including the alteration of “**only begotten**” to “one and only.”

It remains only to be noted that although the Tyndale, Matthew and Coverdale New Testaments have “only” in John 3:16, 18, they have “**only begotten**” in John 1:14, 18, 1 John 4:9. The Bibles of Wycliffe, Great - edited by Miles Coverdale - Bishops’ and Geneva have “**only begotten**” in John 1:14, 18, 3:16, 18, 1 John 4:9.

The testimony of the Bibles of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation, of which the 1611 Holy Bible was the crowning achievement, is clearly in favour of the 1611 Holy Bible with respect to “**only begotten**” in John 3:16, 18. As Coverdale’s editing of the Great Bible of 1540 compared to the Coverdale Bible of 1535 shows, some refinement of the earlier 16th century English Bibles was necessary, Psalm 12:6, 7 but this was achieved in the later versions i.e. Bishops’ and Geneva Bibles.