

Can the water in John 3:5, John 4:13-14, and Jeremiah 2:13 be the same?

John 3:5 refers to baptism. **John 4:13-14** refers to the teaching of Christ. To the one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness the teaching of Christ is both food and drink; His teaching satisfies.

Jeremiah 2:13 says *“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.”* Read the connection. The Jews had forsaken God, the Source of all good, and had gone off after idols, from which no good could come. They are like a person who forsakes a fine fountain of water and hews himself out a cistern, a broken cistern, which contains no water. That is what any man does who, when he forsakes God, goes after the doctrines of men. The doctrines of men furnish no living water.

Is the wind in John 3:8 a comparison of one who is born of the Spirit?

Many scholars think that it should be spirit instead of wind, for the same Greek word is translated both wind and spirit in that verse. But let it be wind. Nicodemus was having a hard time understanding how a grown man could be born again. He had his mind on the birth of the body. That which is born of the flesh is flesh — flesh before it was born as well as after it is born. It is the spirit that is born of the Spirit. You do not see the spirit, nor do you see the wind, but both are real. You know of them by their effects. But there is little need for anyone to worry over these matters. When the apostles began to preach the gospel, they did not tell sinners to be born again, they told them in plain language what to do to be saved. In doing that they were saved — were born again.

Are we born of God or the Spirit in this life?

Yes, people are born again, born of God or the Spirit, in this life. There is no mystery about it; it is a plain case of doing what is necessary to be saved. Those who obeyed the gospel under the preaching of the New Testament preachers were called children of God. If a person does not become a child of God in this life, he will never become a child of God.

— via *Reflections*, pages 60-61

EDITOR’S NOTE: **“Cistern”** is defined as follows: “A cistern ...is a waterproof receptacle for holding liquids, usually water. Cisterns are often built to catch and store rainwater.” So when God spoke through Jeremiah and said the people preferred “broken cisterns” that could hold no water, he was referring to the lack of any value whatsoever of human doctrines in comparison to the Words of God, which are living, active and powerful, **Hebrews 4:12**. Imagine *choosing* between a fresh, living spring of water and an old cistern which might be full of dirt, bugs, and even stagnant water! Anyone with sense would choose the spring! But even worse, the chosen cistern was dry!