

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

Summary and Historical Background

When Jesus attended the feast at Jerusalem, He met a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made whole?" He told Jesus that he had been trying, but was unsuccessful. Jesus told this helpless man, "Take up your bed and walk." By faith he obeyed Jesus and was healed by the miraculous healing power of God (5:1-9).

This act of kindness, however, caused Jesus to be persecuted by the religious Jewish leaders. When they learned that Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath and told him to carry his bed on the Sabbath, they wanted to kill Him. He told them that He was doing what His Father would do. When He said that God was His Father, He made Himself equal with God. These religious leaders knew that is what He meant and now they had two reasons to take His life (5:10-18).

Without retreating, Jesus further explained His relationship to God as His Father (5:19-24). Then He spoke of His authority to raise those who were spiritually dead as well as those who were physically dead (5:25-30). Lest there be any doubt about His deity as the Son of God, Jesus gave these Jewish religious leaders three witnesses to this fact in addition to the witness of John the Baptist (5:31-47).

I. The Restoration of the Invalid to Health — 5:1-9

5:1-5 — His condition: This helpless man was an invalid. He was at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem along with many other sick people waiting to be healed. He had been sick for 38 years.

5:6a — His state: He was totally helpless and had lost all hope of being healed. When a person comes to this stage, he is usually ready to receive any good news about his health. This is also true about one's salvation.

5:6b — His test: He was confronted by Jesus' question, "Do you want to be made whole?" Jesus' question focused his attention on his desperate need to be made whole (cf. 3:19; 5:40 concerning spiritual needs).

5:7 — His response: He blamed others for his condition. No one would help him get healed.

5:8 — His responsibility: Jesus gave him an opportunity to exercise his faith. He commanded him to rise, take up his bed (pallet), and walk.

5:9 — His obedience: He was healed immediately when he obeyed Christ, even though it was on the Sabbath day (a special feast day - cf. 5:1). Jesus never gives a command that is impossible to do. He always gives the grace to obey His commands (Phil 2:13).

II. The Response of the Invalid to the Jews — 5:10-18

5:10, 12 — The Jews (the Jewish leaders) were more concerned with their tradition than with the healing of this infirm, suffering man (cf. Isa 58:4-7). They wanted to know who told this man to take up his bed and walk on the Sabbath.

5:11, 13 — The restored man did not even know who had healed him; he simply knew he had been healed by a kind stranger.

5:14 — "Sin no more" - Jesus found the man in the Temple and indicated his infirmity was sin-related

when He told him, "Sin no more." If he did not forsake his sins, a worse calamity would befall him.

5:15 — "Jesus" - The restored man returned and told the Jews it was Jesus who had healed him. It probably was not a malicious act toward Jesus when he revealed who had healed him. He simply wanted to prove to his religious leaders that Jesus told him to take up his bed and walk on the Sabbath.

5:16 — "Persecute Jesus" -The Jews sought to kill Jesus because they claimed He broke the law regarding the Sabbath, but He actually fulfilled it (Isa 58:6-7).

5:17-18 — "My Father" - When Jesus called God His Father, He made Himself equal with God. The Jews were right in seeing this fact, but they were wrong in denying it to be true.

III. The Reply of Jesus to the Jews — 5:19-47

A. He did the works of His Father — 5:19-30

5:19-30 — Jesus claimed He was doing the works of His Father. He and His Father work in harmony with each other.

The Father

He does a work - v. 19

He shows His beloved Son what He is doing - v. 20

He raises the dead and gives them life - v. 21

He gives all judgment to His Son - v. 22

He receives honor from all people - v. 23

He sent His Son to save lost sinners - v. 24

He has life in Himself - v. 26

He reveals His will to His Son - v. 30

judge them by the will of His Father - vv. 28-30

The Son

He sees His Father's work and does it – v. 19

He does His Father's work; men marvel – v. 20

He gives life to the dead – v. 21

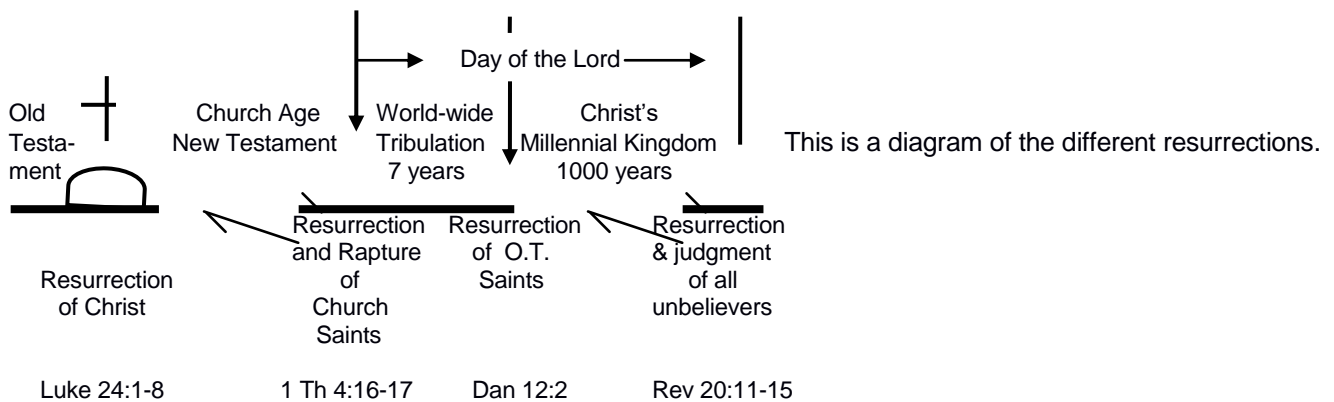
He judges all things - vv. 22, 27; cf. Acts 17:31

He shares the honor given to His Father - v. 23

He tells the spiritually dead to believe His Father and receive eternal life - vv. 24-25

He has His Father's life in Himself - v. 26

He raises the physical and spiritual dead to



B. His Witnesses Validate His Claim — 5:31-47

5:31-47 — Jesus presented three witnesses to prove He is the Son of God, equal with God (5:18). When it is said that Jesus is the Son of God, some people believe He was born of God as children are born of their parents. Jesus Christ always has been the Son of God; He said, "I am Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Rev 22:13). He always existed with His Father. "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col 2:9). He

has the same essence and nature of His Father. However, as the Son of God, He does not have the supreme authority of His Father; but submits His will to the will of His Father (Jn 5:30; 6:38; Lk 22:42).

1. His Witness Is Not Acceptable — 5:31

5:31 — "My witness is not true" - Jesus is saying that His witness of Himself would not be legally valid.

2. His Unidentified Witness — 5:32

5:32 — "Another bears witness of Me" - Jesus does not tell who this witness is, but it seems that He was referring to His Father. This is seen in His refusal to receive the witness from any man (v. 34). Since He does receive the witness of this one, it must be His Father's witness (v. 32). More will be said about the Father's witness (vv. 37-38).

3. His Human Witness — 5:33-35

5:33-35 — John the Baptist witnessed that Jesus was the Son of God (Jn 1:34), but Jesus would not accept his witness because he was merely a man. He gives three witnesses greater than John to prove this fact.

4. His Works Are a Witness — Jn 5:36

5:36 — "The same works that I do" - The first witness that Jesus is the Son of God is the work that He does. Jesus said the works that the Father had given Him to finish were a greater witness to His deity than that of John the Baptist. The miracles that He was performing gave a powerful witness that He was God's Son.

5. His Father Is A Witness — 5:37-38

5:37-38 — "The Father" - The second witness of His deity was that of His Father. He said that Jesus was His Son at His baptism (Mt 3:17) and on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt 17:5). Nevertheless, the Jewish leaders could not hear His voice nor see His shape, so they refused to believe Him.

6. The Scriptures Are a Witness — 5:39-47

5:39-47 — "The Scriptures" - The third witness to testify to the divine nature of Jesus was the Scriptures, (v. 39; cf. Ps 2:7; 40:7; 110:1). The Jewish leaders looked to the Old Testament Scriptures for eternal life, but they refused to believe what it said about Jesus Christ. They even failed to believe what Moses said about Him. If they had believed Moses, they would have believed Jesus (v. 46; cf Gen 3:15; 18:1; Deut 18:15). Jesus touched a sensitive nerve when He told the Jews that they did not believe Moses' words. They claimed to be very loyal followers of Moses.