



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
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## The Man Who Claimed to be God — Part 2

### John 5:21-47

**Related Topics:** Jesus in Jerusalem; Pool of Bethesda; The Sabbath; God Never Resting; God at Work to Save; Jesus Doing the Will of the Father; Jesus Doing the Works of the Father; Claims to be God; Jesus Claims Power to Give Life; Jesus Claims Power To Judge; Jesus Claims To Deserve the Same Honor As the Father; Jesus Claims Power To Raise the Dead

#### 1.) THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE

**<sup>21</sup>For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.**

As we read through these things we need to remember that they're already hostile towards Jesus for calling God HIS Father! To make this claim was to invite even more opposition.

These men said that Yahweh — the God of Israel — held the three great keys: the key to open the heavens and give rain ([Deut. 28:12](#)); the key to open the womb and give conception ([Gen. 30:22](#)); and the key to open the grave and raise the dead ([Ezek. 37:13](#)). They believed that there would one day be a general resurrection ([Daniel 12:2](#); [Job 19](#)) and, at that resurrection the just and the unjust would be raised together, some unto eternal life, some to eternal contempt and shame.

As far as we see in the Gospel records, Jesus had not yet raised anyone from the dead. In [Luke 7](#), He will meet a funeral procession in a place called Nain. A widow's only son is being carried to the grave. Jesus stops

the whole thing and touches him and he says — *Young man, I say to you, arise.* He calls him back from the dead. In [Luke 8](#), He will raise Jairus' daughter. He will speak to her dead body — *Talitha Cummi — little lamb arise.* In [John 11](#), He will come to the tomb of a dear friend, Lazarus, who had been dead 4 days. He had them roll back the stone and he cried out — *Lazarus, come forth!*

He is no doubt also talking about giving spiritual life to those who were spiritually dead.

## **2.) THE POWER TO JUDGE**

**<sup>22</sup>The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,**

He's just claimed to be the one who speaks and calls forth life — and now He says that ALL judgment belongs to Him! I see heads exploding here!

To the orthodox Jew, Yahweh was *"the Judge of all the earth"* ([Gen. 18:25](#)); and no one dared to apply that august title to himself. But Jesus did! By claiming to be the Judge, He claimed to be God.

*(Acts 17:31) "Because He [God] hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained".*

## **3.) THE POSITION OF HONOR**

**<sup>23</sup>that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.**

**QUOTE:** A.T. Robertson — *"Jesus claims the same right to worship from men that the Father has."*

The orthodox Jew so honored God that they would never even write His name in its entirety. Even today they write G\_d. In the Old Testament, whenever you see the word LORD in all upper case letters, it is the word Yahweh, or Jehovah. The Hebrew is actually YHVH. Theologians call it the tetragrammaton. They deliberately left out the vowel sounds so that no

one could every say it. When the scribes were copying the Old Testament manuscripts and they came to the tetragrammaton they would get up, wash their hands, get a brand new writing instrument, and only then write it.

Jesus is now saying that the honor they have reserved for Yahweh is the same honor they should give to Him!

**MORE EXPLODING HEADS!**

**DON'T MISS THIS** — Jesus said that you can't honor God without honoring Him! The Name of Jesus is *the only name given among men whereby we must be saved*. A lot of people are offended about that today. It's not politically correct. It's considered the height of intolerance. Years ago Ted Turner told everyone at the UN how wrong Christianity is because we're telling people that Jesus is the only way to be saved.

**MORE EXPLODING HEADS!**

It's not remarkable that Jesus is the only way to be saved, it's remarkable that there is a way to be saved. That's not narrow minded, that's hope. It's truth. You can't honor the father without honoring the son.

Jesus Himself dismantles every false religion of man. They all say that they honor God, but they don't honor Jesus as God.

**QUOTE: Dave Guzik** — *There are many groups that pretend to honor God but they dishonor Jesus, who is the perfect revelation of God the Father. In this, they demonstrate that they do not honor God the Father at all.*

Jesus is virtually dishonored by everyone of the cults. The names of the founders and leaders of all these cults are always honored. I'm 58 and I have never heard anyone say – *oh, Buddha* when they hit their thumb with a hammer! Why only Jesus Christ? It's interesting that the various cults teach their adherents how to argue with Christians. They always teach their folks how to come to your door and argue with Christians.

Where Satan aims all of his ammunition is where you will find life and truth. Jesus says – *you can't honor God without honoring the son. It's impossible.*

#### **4.) THE POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD**

<sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you,

**For a second time** — Jesus prefaces a claim to deity with the words *truly, truly I say to you*. Jesus speaks in this section about four different resurrections.

**whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.**

**HUGE INSIGHT** — The lost sinner is as lifeless and helpless as a corpse.

*Ephesians 2:1* And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked,

*Colossians 2:13* And you, who were dead in your trespasses

No matter how an undertaker may prepare a corpse, it is still dead; and no corpse is “deader” than any other corpse. If you are dead, you are dead! The Bible says that the wages of sin is death and that all have sinned. The unrepentant homeschooling, family values man or woman is as dead in their trespasses and sins as the unrepentant prostitute or murderer.

How are dead sinners raised from the dead?

*whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me*

By hearing God’s Word and believing on God’s Son. Jesus healed the paralyzed man at the pool by His word ([John 5:8](#)). Each time He raised somebody from the dead, He spoke the word ([Luke 7:11-17](#) ; [8:49-56](#) ; [John 11:41-44](#) ). His Word is “living and powerful” ([Heb. 4:12](#) ) and can raise sinners from spiritual death.

**AGAIN — THE TENSE of these verbs is crucial.**

*“has Everlasting life” = Presently, right here and now, has everlasting life.* If you’re a born again Christian, you’re not **going** to have eternal life

someday in the future when you go to heaven, you have it now. That's what has ruined you for this world. You *have eternal life*.

*“has passed from death to life” = passed permanently, from death unto life.*  
That's GREAT NEWS!

If you are a Christian — you may be a knucklehead, you may be wrestling with back sliding — you may be wrestling with besetting sins — you may struggle with your theology — you may not understand everything in the scripture — but one thing is true — you have **permanently** passed from death unto life.

When you exercise genuine faith in Jesus you can **never** die spiritually again nor can you **ever** come into judgment ([Rom. 8:1](#)).

NEVER and EVER are HUGE words! MY HEAD is EXPLODING on this one!

**BOTTOM LINE** — To hear His Word and believe means salvation; to reject His Word means condemnation ([John 12:48](#)).

***25“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.***

**AGAIN** — *Truly, truly I say to you.* If you think it's a big deal to see a lame man get up and carry his mat, you ain't seen nothing yet.

No doubt a reference to the widow's son in Nain, the daughter of Jairus and Lazarus. Lazarus would be especially a problem with these guys because of the proximity of Bethany to Jerusalem.

*John 12:9-11* When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup>because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

BUT — you and I are included in this too. We were *dead in trespasses and sins*. We heard his voice. He spoke His Word to us and made us alive.

You know, isn't it remarkable, I mean... I'm sitting here this morning telling you about this Man Who Claimed to Be God because HE spoke to me. Before he made the heavens and the earth, before he laid out the universe with the span of his hand, before any of that, he thought about me.

**THINK ABOUT THIS** — As you read through the days of Creation in Genesis 1, at the end of each day God looked at His creation and said, "*This is good.*" On the third day He created the fruit bearing trees and when He was done He said, "*This is good.*" He didn't say that because He was thinking about getting up in the morning and having the freshest Orange ever eaten. That's not why it was good. He was thinking — *wait until Richard peels one of these. He's going to love this.* This is going to blow his mind. We were in his heart. Adam was in his heart.

He not only thought about me from eternity past. He came and died for me. He rose from the dead for me. He ascended into heaven and called me with a heavenly calling! That's why I'm sitting here. He spoke to me. I was DEAD in trespasses and sins — and He spoke to me.

Every born again man and woman, every follower of Jesus has a testimony. Our testimony is that we were dead and we heard the voice of the son of God. A very dear friend of mine, Romaine, he's in heaven now, said "*There's only one testimony, I was a jerk, I was going to hell and God saved me. Everything else is details.*"

But our testimony doesn't end at that moment. He not only saved me, but he's kept me. And, he's gracious to me, and He fellowships with me because He's alive (Last Credo study — RESURRECTION: God Saves).

***26*For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.**

**This is a reference to His own resurrection!**

**QUOTE:** Warren Wiersbe — *Our life is derived, but His life is original, "in Himself."*

Again, we are tethered to the Prologue. *“In Him was life” (John 1:4).*

The grave could not hold Him because He is *“the Prince of Life” (Acts 2:24; 3:15)*. Jesus *laid down His life* and then *took it up again (John 10:17-18)*.

Because He has life in Himself, He can give that life with all who will trust Him.

**<sup>26</sup>For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup>And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.**

This is a reference to *Daniel 7:13-14*

*<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup>And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

**AGAIN** — These men knew exactly what Jesus was claiming. **The give away** that they understood this is in the very next verse —

**<sup>28</sup>Do not marvel at this,**

Literally = stop marveling. Stop with the exploding heads already! These men were standing there with their mouths hanging open.

Then Jesus tells them WHY they have to stop marveling

**<sup>28</sup>Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice <sup>29</sup>and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.**

Again, this no doubt is pointing forward to Lazarus. Lazarus was without a doubt DEAD.

*John 11:39 KJV Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.*

They wanted to kill Jesus because He was raising people from the dead. They wanted to kill Lazarus because he came back from the dead. Lazarus was bad theology, particularly for those members of the Sanhedrin that were Sadducees because the Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection. But there was Lazarus walking around saying – *I think you need to work on your theology a little bit.*

**Stop marveling, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear the voice of the Son of Man (that would be Me) <sup>29</sup>and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.**

MORE EXPLODING HEADS —

There are two resurrections. We should not think of them as EVENTS but as categories! You're either part of the first resurrection or you're part of the second resurrection. The first resurrection is a resurrection unto life, the second resurrection is a resurrection unto damnation.

**This FIRST resurrection** is not an event. It has to do with the resurrection of the righteous —

The first resurrection BEGAN with the Resurrection of Jesus

*1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

The First Resurrection includes every believer up to the beginning of the 1,000 year reign of Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** <sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The first resurrection will be complete when the FINAL saint is martyred in the Great Tribulation.

**Revelation 20:4-6** <sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

The Second resurrection is a category AND an event which takes place at the end of the thousand year reign of Jesus. At the end of 1,000 years there will be one last rebellion against Jesus led by Satan.

**Revelation 20:9-10** <sup>9</sup>And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, <sup>10</sup>and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It is then that the second resurrection takes place.

*Revelation 20:11-15* Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The category of men and women that take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection are ALL of the unrighteous dead from all ages. Because they never received the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus, because they were never “justified by faith” in Christ they are resurrected to stand before the Lord to be condemned.

Sin MUST be judged! On the cross Jesus endured the judgment of God for MY sins. He endured the wrath of God that I deserved to endure for eternity. The moment I believed that Good News I was **SAVED**. The moment I believed that Good News ALL of my sin was blotted out and the righteousness of Jesus was credited to me. I will NOT stand before the Great White Throne to be judged and condemned for my sins because I relied upon what Jesus did for me when He died on the Cross. Jesus is God who became man; lived the life I should have, but didn't; and died the death I should; but won't because He endured it in my place!

The category of those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection is made up of men and women who refused to believe the message of the Gospel. They rejected Jesus in this life — they refused to believe that Jesus is God who became man, and died on the Cross for their sins, and three days later came out of the tomb, conquering death and hell. As a result they will be a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection — where they will face the judgment they deserve. They will face the second death — eternal separation from God.

*°Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power,*

**Born ONCE — die TWICE.  
Born TWICE — die ONCE.**

**Some say** — *How can a God of love send people to hell?*

REMEMBER — Jesus said — The Father loves the Son! God is so willing that none of us end up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection that He sent His unique and Only Begotten Son, Who He loves. He was willing to let His Son die in your place; pay the price for your sin; to purchase your ticket to heaven that He didn't need because He is sinless and righteous. He purchased it at the price of His own life, His shed blood. Because of the price that He paid you and I can freely be saved by turning from sin and believing with your heart on the Lord Jesus.

Those who do that will be in the category of the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection — standing before the Holy God of heaven clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. But there will be those who stand before God in their own righteousness which is not righteousness at all. The Bible calls our righteousness filthy rags because every **thought** is judged; every **lust** is judged; every **word** is judged; every intent of the heart is judged; **let alone** every action.

The choice is ours. We make our own reservations.

**Jesus is now going to appeal to THREE WITNESSES to corroborate His claims to be God.**

**<sup>30</sup>“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>31</sup>If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true.**

The word *witness* is a key word in John's Gospel — John uses it 47 times.

**<sup>31</sup> If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. <sup>33</sup> You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.**

**The first *witness* was** John the Baptizer. These same men had sent a contingency out to the Judean wilderness to interrogate John in the later part of **Chapter 1**. At the very end of His ministry, Jesus pointed the rulers back to the witness of John the Baptizer ([Matthew 21:23-27](#)). John knew who Jesus was and faithfully declared what he knew to the people of Israel. John told the people that Jesus was the Lord ([John 1:23](#)), the Lamb of God ([John 1:29; 36](#)), and the Son of God ([John 1:34](#)). Jesus said that John was a “burning and shining lamp” — So bright a witness that they should never have missed it. By the way — John was shining on the outside because he was burning on the inside. You CAN’T be shining on the OUTSIDE unless you are BURNING on the inside.

### **VERSE 36**

**<sup>36</sup>But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.**

**The second *witness* was** the witness of His miracles. John selected 7 of them — he called them “signs” — as proof that Jesus is the Son of God. ([John 20:30-31](#)).

**<sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.**

**The third *witness* was** *the Word of the Father*. The Jewish people held the written Word of God with tremendous esteem. They knew exactly how many LETTERS were in the Old Testament. They knew the MIDDLE LETTER in the Old Testament. They knew the number of WORDS in the Old Testament. They knew the MIDDLE WORD in the Old Testament.

***John 5:39-40*** *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup>yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.* “

The Jewish scribes sought to know the Word of God, but they did not know the God of the Word! They counted the very letters of the text, but they missed the spiritual truths that the text contained.

BOTTOM LINE — Their problem; the problem for every unbelieving man and woman; is not a lack of information. The problem is not that they CAN'T believe, it's that they WON'T believe! The person who WON'T believe simply does not want to hear the truth. They don't want to hear the truth because they don't want to come from darkness to light.

**<sup>42</sup>But I know that you do not have the love of God within you.  
<sup>43</sup>I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.**

Genesis the Revelation of person being revealed, the word of God. In fact, when he returns, Lord of Lord, King of Kings, the word of God written upon his thigh. These are they that testify of me. And, you will not come to me that you might have life. I receive not honor from men. But, I know you, that you have not the love of God in you. They would rather prefer ritual to mercy [tape cut 49:13]. I am come in my father's name. And you receive me not. If another shall come in his own name, Him, you shall receive.

Now, by the way, when you go to Israel today, I've been there many times, some of the religious Jews, they struggle with the fact that Jesus said he was the son of God. They believe and Moses said in Deuteronomy 18, another prophet like unto me shall... so, they believe the messiah will be a man.

A number of years ago an ambassador from Israel was invited to speak at Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia on what was going on in the Middle East. Somebody asked the question — *“What about when the Messiah returns?”* He replied — *“Not ‘returns’. You think he’s returning, we think he’s coming the first time.”* Another question followed — *“How will you recognize the Messiah?”* The man replied — *“We think he’s going to be a man. He’ll be a politician with a lot of sway, with a great orator. He’ll be able to bring a peace treaty to Israel.”*

A former prime minister of Israel Yitzhak Shamir said — *“Give us a man, any man, that will produce peace in the Middle East, whether he be man or devil, we will receive him as the messiah.”* I'm sure he was speaking figuratively, but it underscores how desperate Israel is for peace. Daniel 9 tells us that when the anti-Christ comes he will make a strong covenant with many that involves Jerusalem and the Jews.

**<sup>45</sup>Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup>If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. <sup>47</sup>But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"**

One of the most — if not the most — revered figures in the history of Israel — would be their judge, not their savior.

**FIRST** — The LAW handed down by Moses can not save us — it can only judge us and pronounce us GUILTY before God.

**SECOND** — The Jews *knew* what Moses wrote, but they did not really *believe* what he wrote. Jesus is the Word made flesh (**John 1:14**) and the written Word bears witness to the Incarnate Word.

*(Luke 24:27) And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

But before our heads start exploding over these guys — we need to examine our hearts and examine the heart of this thing we call Metro. Are we allowing our man made methods or traditions to trump the Truth of the Word of God? Are we so into “Bible study” that we fail to see Jesus Christ in the Word?

**QUOTE: Warren Weirsbe** — *It is one thing to have the Word in our hands or our heads, but quite another thing to have it in our hearts.... Does our knowledge of the Bible give us a “big head” or a “burning heart”?*

**CLOSING** — These men did not intimidate Jesus. As we look at the composite of the Gospels we discover that after the events of **John 5** that Jesus deliberately violated the Sabbath again! You just have to love Jesus — *The Man Who Claimed to Be God!*