

John Chapter Five

Read John 5:1-9 – Healing the Impotent Man

v.1 “AFTER THIS THERE WAS A FEAST OF THE JEWS: AND JESUS WENT UP TO JERUSALEM.”

Since he followed the Mosaic Covenant perfectly Jesus observed the feasts in Jerusalem as they were commanded:

Leviticus 23:2 “SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND SAY UNTO THEM, *concerning* THE FEASTS OF THE **LORD**, WHICH YE SHALL PROCLAIM *to be* HOLY CONVOCATIONS, *even* THESE *are* MY FEASTS.”

Were any one of the three feasts that God had commanded more important than another? No, no more than one element of our worship is more important than another. Whether feasts of the Old Testament or items of worship in the New they are ordained of God and are to be honored and respected equally. Scholars content that the feast that Jesus is attending in the next Passover. The Passover was commanded as follows:

Deuteronomy 16:1 “OBSERVE THE MONTH OF ABIB, AND KEEP THE PASSOVER UNTO THE **LORD** THY GOD: FOR IN THE MONTH OF ABIB THE **LORD** THY GOD BROUGHT THEE FORTH OUT OF EGYPT BY NIGHT.”

So when we look at the time line; John records that Jesus celebrated the Passover in chapter two, baptized and preached in Judea in chapter 3, went to Galilee in chapter 4 so then these events in chapter five would have been at the Passover a year later. We find that the writings of John has a different purpose than Matthew, Mark or Luke (**John 20:30-31**), he records significant events rather than providing a more detailed chronology. Therefore a year has passed since the events recorded in Chapter Two.

v.2 “NOW THERE IS AT JERUSALEM BY THE SHEEP *market* A POOL, WHICH IS CALLED IN THE HEBREW TONGUE BETHESDA, HAVING FIVE PORCHES.”

Other translations call this location the “SHEEP GATE” rather than the “SHEEP MARKET”. It is mentioned by Nehemiah:

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Nehemiah 3:1 “THEN ELISAHIB THE HIGH PRIEST ROSE UP WITH HIS BRETHREN THE PRIESTS, AND THEY BUILDED THE SHEEP GATE; THEY SANCTIFIED IT, AND SET UP THE DOORS OF IT; EVEN UNTO THE TOWER OF MEAH THEY SANCTIFIED IT, UNTO THE TOWER OF HANANEEL.

Then it is mentioned again in **Nehemiah 12:39** as part of the wall of Jerusalem that was built after the captivity. It stood between these two towers that were part of the defenses of the city. The specific location of the pool was not known beyond John’s description though some believe that it was created by damming a portion of the Beth Zeta Valley located in what is currently the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem. But as is true of many places named in scripture when the archeologists went looking they found a location that matches. This is the only place in scripture where Bethesda is mentioned by name. It had five porches or platforms around it where people waited for the event described in the next verse.

v.3 “IN THESE LAY A GREAT MULTITUDE OF IMPOTENT FOLK, OF BLIND, HALT, WITHERED, WAITING FOR THE MOVING OF THE WATER.”

People who had incurable diseases or physical problems would wait the moving of the waters; much the same as those who gather today at a statue that is supposed to weep blood, or at a man made shrine of any sort where healing is reported to have happened. They waited, hoping to be healed; John explains.

v4. “FOR AN ANGEL WENT DOWN AT A CERTAIN SEASON INTO THE POOL, AND TROUBLED THE WATER; WHOSOEVER THEN FIRST AFTER THE TROUBLING OF THE WATER STEPPED IN WAS MADE WHOLE OF WHATSOEVER DISEASE HE HAD.”

This verse is omitted from the American Standard and Revised Standard translations. The meaning of the Aramaic word Bethesda is “house of grace” or “house of mercy”; a name very appropriate for a place of healing. The people gathered here because that an “ANGEL WENT DOWN AT A CERTAIN SEASON” of time and “TROUBLED” or disturbed the water. If they could but enter the water immediately afterward they would be healed of whatever trouble they endured. We should note that John does not in any way qualify his statement that an “ANGEL WENT DOWN”. In all translations that include this verse it is included as a statement of fact.

v5. “AND A CERTAIN MAN WAS THERE, WHICH HAD AN INFIRMITY THIRTY AND EIGHT YEARS.”

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We are not told how old this man was, or what infirmity he suffered, simply that he had been disabled for 38 years. Why is that significant? Because it demonstrates the power of God. He had lived a lifetime and no cure was known or could be found for his disability.

v6. "WHEN JESUS SAW HIM LIE, AND KNEW THAT HE HAD BEEN NOW A LONG TIME *in that case*, HE SAITH UNTO HIM, WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?"

Jesus is walking among the people gathered there, and seeing their plight, he has compassion on them. This man captures his attention and Jesus asks an obvious question to us. Do you want to be made whole?

v7. "THE IMPOTENT MAN ANSWERED HIM, SIR, I HAVE NO MAN, WHEN THE WATER IS TROUBLED, TO PUT ME INTO THE POOL: BUT WHILE I AM COMING, ANOTHER STEPPETH DOWN BEFORE ME."

Yes, this man definitely wanted to be healed. This was the reason that he spent his time sitting near the water of the pool. But he was hampered by his condition to the extent that he could not move himself to the water if and when the waters were troubled. So he continued to wait to realize that hope. He does not realize who Jesus is, to him; he's probably just another man who happened to wander into the pool area.

v8. "JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, RISE, TAKE UP THY BED, AND WALK,"

Jesus doesn't make a production of his healing this man as many men would do but rather simply tells him to get up, take his bed and be on his way. Back at the beginning of his ministry; after answering the scribes he had told the man sick of the palsy much the same thing.

Matthew 9:6 "BUT THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT THE SON OF MAN HATH POWER ON EARTH TO FORGIVE SINS, (THEN SAITH HE TO THE SICK OF THE Palsy,) ARISE, TAKE UP THY BED, AND GO INTO THINE HOUSE."

See also **Mark 2:11** and **Luke 5:24**. How many of our so-called faith healers today would dare to tell someone who had a crippling affliction for 38 years; who was in such a condition that he could not move himself to the pool of water when it moved; to take up his bed and walk and expect him to do just that. You won't find one because they are charlatans, they do not have the ability to heal anyone.

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v9. “AND IMMEDIATELY THE MAN WAS MADE WHOLE, AND TOOK UP HIS BED, AND WALKED: AND ON THE SAME DAY WAS THE SABBATH.”

When the man did as Jesus commanded he was healed, just as we will be healed spiritually when we follow our Lord’s instruction. John tells us that this event occurred on the Sabbath day and this is not the only time that Jesus healed on the Sabbath:

John 9:14 “AND IT WAS THE SABBATH DAY WHEN JESUS MADE THE CLAY AND OPENED HIS EYES.”

Jesus healing on the Sabbath and the man carrying his bed or pallet then raises an issue with the Jewish rulers.

Read **John 5:10-18** – Sabbath Breaking?

Why is Jesus healing on the Sabbath day significant? The Jews, especially the Pharisees, were very rigid in their interpretation and application of the Mosaic Covenant. It also had been interpreted, enhanced, and supposedly improved by the traditions of the Jewish Elders and Teachers during the time between Malachi and the coming of Christ. By healing, or plucking grain, as Jesus disciples did on another occasion, Jesus displays his authority over the Law of the Sabbath. But the Jews took the man that was healed to task:

v10. “THE JEWS THEREFORE SAID UNTO HIM THAT WAS CURED, IT IS THE SABBATH DAY: IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR THEE TO CARRY *thy* BED.”

Under the Mosaic Law work was prohibited on the day of rest; we find the initial instruction in Exodus:

Exodus 20:10 “BUT THE SEVENTH DAY *is* THE SABBATH OF THE **LORD** THY GOD: *in it* THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK, THOU, NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER, THY MANSERVANT, NOR THY MAIDSERVANT, NOR THY CATTLE, NOR THY STRANGER THAT *is* WITHIN THY GATES:”

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Because of the troubles in Jerusalem after the captivity this prohibition was reinforced. In the time between returning to Jerusalem and the time that Nehemiah came; the Sabbath had become just another day to do business in the city. So when Nehemiah came to Jerusalem it was necessary he do something about it. Nehemiah placed guards at the city gates to end the wholesale trade, work and other activities that were being conducted on the Sabbath Day.

Nehemiah 13:19 “AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT WHEN THE GATES OF JERUSALEM BEGAN TO BE DARK BEFORE THE SABBATH, I COMMANDED THAT THE GATES SHOULD BE SHUT, AND CHARGED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE OPENED TILL AFTER THE SABBATH: AND **some** OF MY SERVANTS I SET AT THE GATES, **that** THERE SHOULD NO BURDEN BE BROUGHT IN ON THE SABBATH DAY.”

The Pharisees and the Jewish elders carried this prohibition to the extreme in the days of Jesus even condemning something that was allowed.

Matthew 12:1-2 “AT THE TIME JESUS WENT ON THE SABBATH DAY THROUGH THE CORN; AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE AN HUNGRED, AND BEGAN TO PLUCK THE EARS OF CORN, AND TO EAT. BUT WHEN THE PHARISEES SAW **it**, THEY SAID UNTO HIM, BEHOLD THY DISCIPLES DO THAT WHICH IS NOT LAWFUL TO DO UPON THE SABBATH DAY.”

v11. “HE ANSWERED THEM, HE THAT MADE ME WHOLE, THE SAME SAID UNTO ME, TAKE UP THY BED, AND WALK.”

The man who was healed simply reacted to the commandment that he was given. He had been incapacitated for 38 years and when someone told him to pick up his bed and walk away he did so. He probably was so joyful about his healing that he didn't even think about it being the Sabbath or that he might be violating the Law of the Sabbath.

v12. “THEN ASKED THEY HIM, WHAT MAN IS THAT WHICH SAID UNTO THEE, TAKE UP THY BED, AND WALK?”

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The Jews apparently had a hard time believing what this man said. So they asked - who is this man who told you to take up your bed and walk? It may seem a little incredible that this man didn't know who it was that healed him. But it was apparently done rather quickly and Jesus went on his way. He was probably like most of us would be; we would be left standing with our mouths open, waiting for what has happened to us to register.

v13. "AND HE THAT WAS HEALED WIST NOT WHO IT WAS: FOR JESUS HAD CONVEYED HIMSELF AWAY, A MULTITUDE BEING IN *that* PLACE."

He didn't know who Jesus was. There was a crowd or a multitude present. It is a time of one of the great feasts and the city is full of people. The man lost track of the one who healed him and couldn't point him out. We see the attitude of the Jews, probably Pharisees, but not necessarily; their tradition has been broken, they want to punish someone. They apparently have no thoughts for the man that was healed.

v14. "AFTERWARD JESUS FINDETH HIM IN THE TEMPLE, AND SAID UNTO HIM, BEHOLD, THOU ART MADE WHOLE: SIN NO MORE, LEST A WORSE THING COME UNTO THEE."

The Jews believed that if you had an affliction of some kind that it was brought on either by your sin, or the sins of your parents. Jesus refutes this doctrine in a later chapter:

John 9:2-3 "AND HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM, SAYING, MASTER, WHO DID SIN, THIS MAN, OR HIS PARENTS, THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND? JESUS ANSWERED, NEITHER HATH THIS MAN SINNED, NOR HIS PARENTS: BUT THAT THE WORKS OF GOD SHOULD BE MADE MANIFEST IN HIM."

So Jesus is most likely referring to the accusation that the Jews made that this man was sinning because he carrying whatever served him as a bed or pallet to lay at the pool.

v15. "THE MAN DEPARTED, AND TOLD THE JEWS THAT IT WAS JESUS, WHICH HAD MADE HIM WHOLE."

After the man sees Jesus again in the temple again he apparently hurried and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. We don't know his motivation but we do know what John records next.

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v16. “AND THEREFORE DID THE JEWS PERSECUTE JESUS, AND SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, BECAUSE HE HAD DONE THESE THINGS ON THE SABBATH DAY.”

Here we have John’s first record of the Jews persecution of Jesus and because he did not conform to their interpretation of the Mosaic Law they plotted to get rid of him. Was it a sin for Jesus to heal the man on the Sabbath?

I Peter 2:21-22 “FOR EVEN HEREUNTO WERE YE CALLED: BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS: WHO DID NO SIN, NEITHER WAS GUILF FOUND IN HIS MOUTH.”

Jesus did no sin; so Jesus did not break the Sabbath. Sin is the transgression of the laws of God (**I John 3:4**). So Jesus obviously violated the Pharisee’s interpretation and application of God’s law but He did not violate the law of God nor, in this case, did the man who Jesus gave the commandment “TAKE UP THY BED, AND WALK”.

v17. “BUT JESUS ANSWERED THEM, MY FATHER WORKETH HITHERTO, AND I WORK.”

Jesus justified his healing the man on the Sabbath on the grounds that his Father works on the Sabbath; and he’s just following His Father’s example. Of course we’re talking about the time of Christ, not the day that God rested after the creation and sanctified under the Mosaic Covenant. Jesus time is short, he has a lot to accomplish and his works are those that are directed by God.

John 9:4 “I MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM THAT SENT ME, WHILE IT IS DAY: THE NIGHT COMETH, WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK.”

And as Jesus told Philip when he asked to Him to show them the Father:

John 14:10 “BELIEVEST THOU NOT THAT I AM IN THE FATHER, AND THE FATHER IN ME? THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU I SPEAK NOT OF MYSELF: BUT THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOETH THE WORKS.”

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We're not sure in what sense God works, but it would seem that his presence and rule over the natural universe would be considered work. Jesus is saying that he has the same rights, privileges and powers as his Father; another reason the Jews plotted to kill him. They took exception to him claiming to be his Father's Son.

v18. "THEREFORE THE JEWS SOUGHT THE MORE TO KILL HIM, BECAUSE HE NOT ONLY HAD BROKEN THE SABBATH BUT SAID ALSO THAT GOD WAS HIS FATHER, MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL TO GOD."

His claim to have the right to do what God did placed him on an equal footing with God; something the Jews took great exception to and something that John records in other places as well:

John 10:30 "I AND *my* FATHER ARE ONE"

John 7:19 "DID NOT MOSES GIVE YOU THE LAW, AND YET NONE OF YOU KEEPETH THE LAW? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME?"

And the Holy Spirit confirmed through the pen of the Apostle Paul:

Philippians 2:6 "WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD:"

Because of the opposition of the Jews and His teaching concerning his relationship with God, Jesus is placed into the position of being required to defend this relationship. As we noted in the beginning John is writing to defend the deity of Christ, the fact that he is indeed the Son of God.

Read **John 5:19-29** – Jesus Defends His Deity

v19. "THEN ANSWERED JESUS AND SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, BUT WHAT HE SEETH THE FATHER DO: FOR WHAT THINGS SOEVER HE DOETH, THESE ALSO DOETH THE SON LIKEWISE."

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This entire section of John 5 is concerned with providing us a picture of the power of the Son of God. Its purpose is to verify his authority over all things and as we have emphasized previously; it is John's verification of the deity of Jesus. Jesus is God's only begotten Son. John, in the record directed by the Holy Spirit and preserved through God's providence, provides us with this undeniable testimony. Jesus does not claim power or authority for himself but rather only that which the Father provides, directs and leads him to exercise.

John 8:28 "THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, WHEN HE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM *he*, AND *that* I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF; BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS."

And again:

John 12:49 "FOR I HAVE NOT SPOKEN OF MYSELF; BUT THE FATHER WHICH SENT ME, HE GAVE ME A COMMANDMENT, WHAT I SHOULD SAY, AND WHAT I SHOULD SPEAK."

v20. "FOR THE FATHER LOVETH THE SON, AND SHOWETH HIM ALL THINGS THAT HIMSELF DOETH: AND HE WILL SHOW HIM GREATER WORKS THAN THESE, THAT YE MAY MARVEL."

Jesus tells them that God loves him as his son, reveals his will and his works to his son and thereby enables him to do what He requires for him to do. In addition to these miracles and signs and wonders, there will be greater miracles and signs and wonders to come.

v21. "FOR AS THE FATHER RAISETH UP THE DEAD, AND QUICKENETH *them*; EVEN SO THE SON QUICKENETH WHOM HE WILL."

One of the things that Jesus is able to do is to raise men from the dead; or in the language of the 17th century quicken them, give them physical life.

At the resurrection of Lazarus Jesus tells Martha:

John 11:25-26 "...I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE: AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE. BELIEVEST THOU THIS?"

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And on this occasion Jesus was about to prove his power over our last enemy, death.

John 11:43-44 “AND WHEN HE THUS HAD SPOKEN, HE CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE. LAZARUS, COME FORTH. AND HE THAT WAS DEAD CAME FORTH, BOUND HAND AND FOOT WITH GRAVECLOTHES: AND HIS FACE WAS BOUND ABOUT WITH A NAPKIN. JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, LOOSE HIM, AND LET HIM GO.”

God’s resurrection of Jesus is the warranty or guarantee that God will indeed raise all of us from the dead some day. Our hope, our faith and our prayer is that when that day comes, when we end our sleep to enter eternity; is that we will be found faithful. For as we are assured in:

Hebrews 9:27 “AND AS IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT.”

v22. “FOR THE FATHER JUDGEETH NO MAN, BUT HATH COMMITTED ALL JUDGMENT UNTO THE SON:”

All authority, all power and the responsibility for the resurrection and judgment has been given to Jesus by the Father.

Matthew 28:18 “AND JESUS CAME AND SPAKE UNTO THEM, SAYING, ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.”

Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, declares Jesus’ authority to judge:

Acts 17:31 “BECAUSE HE HATH APPOINTED A DAY, IN THE WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY *that* MAN WHOM HE HATH ORDAINED; *whereof* HE HATH GIVEN ASSURANCE UNTO ALL *men*, IN THAT HE HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.”

v23. “THAT ALL MEN SHOULD HONOUR THE SON, EVEN AS THEY HONOUR THE FATHER. HE THAT HONoureth NOT THE SON HONoureth NOT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT HIM.”

In giving Jesus all authority and the power to judge; God demands also that Jesus receive the honor that goes with that authority and power. Those modernists who deny the power and deity of Jesus by default deny the power of God himself. Or, as the Apostle John wrote later:

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I John 2:23 “WHOSEVER DENIETH THE SON, THE SAME HATH NOT THE FATHER: *[but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*”

v24. “VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT HEARETH MY WORD, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT SENT ME, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION {JUDGMENT}; BUT IS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE.”

Jesus emphasizes here that those who hear and believe him will inherit everlasting life. God removes us from the old life of condemnation and sin into a new life that leads to eternal life, eternal life with God in heaven.

John 3:16 “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.”

It is God’s will that no man should suffer the punishments of a devil’s hell and he has made every preparation possible to provide mankind the opportunity to escape that punishment. But as we look out across our city, even those whom we know and love, we see that man simply refuses, rejecting God and his law.

John 6:40 “AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, THAT EVERY ONE WHICH SEETH THE SON, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY.”

v25. “VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THE HOUR IS COMING, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE DEAD SHALL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD: AND THEY THAT HEAR SHALL LIVE.”

The idea of the resurrection of the dead is not well known to the common people and is denied by the Sadducees, who were the rulers of the temple. Jesus teaches them plainly that the time is now coming when there would be those in the grave who would hear the voice of God and those that do hear the voice of God will live. This concept can be applied both physically and spiritually; spiritually first. While Jesus here is speaking of those physically dead; those that hear God will be “QUICKENED” or made alive spiritually as well. Paul uses this analogy to encourage the church at Ephesus:

Ephesians 2:1 “AND YOU *hath he quickened*, WHO WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS.”

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Ephesians 2:5 “EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS, HATH QUICKENED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, (BY GRACE YE ARE SAVED;)”

And the Colossians:

Colossians 2:13 “AND YOU, BEING DEAD IN YOUR SINS AND THE UNCIRCUMCISION OF YOUR FLESH, HATH HE QUICKENED TOGETHER WITH HIM, HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES.”

v26. “FOR AS THE FATHER HAS LIFE WITHIN HIMSELF; SO HATH HE GIVEN TO THE SON TO HAVE LIFE IN HIMSELF;”

God has given Jesus the same power he possesses:

v27. “AND HATH GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT ALSO, BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF MAN.”

God has given Jesus the power to execute judgment also and this judgment will be done in accordance with His law. His law is given in the words that God gave the Son to provide to us through his own teaching and the teaching of his apostles. It gives all of the direction for our lives that we require (**II Peter 1:3**). The authority of the Son of Man is described in the prophecy of Daniel:

Daniel 7:13-14 “I SAW IN THE NIGHT VISIONS, AND BEHOLD, **one** LIKE THE SON OF MAN CAME WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN, AND CAME TO THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, AND THEY BROUGHT HIM NEAR BEFORE HIM. AND THERE WAS GIVEN HIM DOMINION, AND GLORY, AND A KINGDOM, THAT ALL PEOPLE, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES, SHOULD SERVE HIM: HIS DOMINION **is** AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, WHICH SHALL NOT PASS AWAY, AND HIS KINGDOM **that** WHICH SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED.”

In his sermon to Cornelius Peter states that:

Acts 10:42 “AND HE COMMANDED US TO PREACH UNTO THE PEOPLE, AND TO TESTIFY THAT IT IS HE WHICH WAS ORDAINED OF GOD **to be** THE JUDGE OF QUICK AND DEAD.”

v28. “MARVEL NOT AT THIS: FOR THE HOUR IS COMING, IN THE WHICH ALL THAT ARE IN THE GRAVES SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE.”

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All that are in the graves will hear his voice, all will be just like Lazarus and be brought forth to live again, a promise that God has sealed by the resurrection of his Son. But they will live an eternal life, not just a continuance of their physical life like Lazarus, a spiritual life that will never end.

v29. “AND SHALL COME FORTH; THEY THAT HAVE DONE GOOD, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE; AND THEY THAT HAVE DONE EVIL, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF DAMNATION.”

In prophecy, the words of God were recorded telling of this great occurrence to come:

Isaiah 26:19 “THY DEAD *men* SHALL LIVE, *together with* MY DEAD BODY SHALL THEY ARISE. AWAKE AND SING, YE THAT DWELL IN DUST: FOR THY DEW *is as* THE DEW OF HERBS, AND THE EARTH SHALL CAST OUT THE DEAD.”

Daniel 12:2 “AND MANY OF THEM THAT SLEEP IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH SHALL AWAKE, SOME TO EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SOME TO SHAME *and* EVERLASTING CONTEMPT.”

And their prophecy is confirmed, emphasized and underlined by the Apostle Paul:

I Corinthians 15:52 “IN A MOMENT, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, AT THE LAST TRUMP: FOR THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND, AND THE DEAD SHALL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED.”

I Thessalonians 4:16 “AND THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD: AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST.”

The Jews did not believe him; just as men do not believe or accept him today.

Read John 5:30-40 – Three Great Witnesses

v30. “I CAN OF MINE OWN SELF DO NOTHING: AS I HEAR, I JUDGE: AND MY JUDGMENT IS JUST; BECAUSE I SEEK NOT MINE OWN WILL, BUT HE WILL OF THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME.”

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Jesus is very careful to make them, and us, understand that He is not doing his own will. He has subordinated his will to the Father's and the very words that he is presenting to them are those of God himself. We go back to an earlier verse in this chapter:

John 5:19 "THEN ANSWERED JESUS AND SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, BUT WHAT HE SEETH THE FATHER DO: FOR WHAT THINGS SOEVER HE DOETH, THESE ALSO DOETH THE SON LIKEWISE."

And in the next chapter:

John 6:38 "FOR I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME."

Jesus carried out the will of his Father to the extent that he willingly went to the cross because it was God's will:

Matthew 26:39 "AND HE WENT A LITTLE FARTHER, AND FELL ON HIS FACE, AND PRAYED, SAYING, "O MY FATHER, IF IT BE POSSIBLE, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME: NEVERTHELESS NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS THOU *wilt.*"

As a man Christ dreaded the cross as much as we would. But as a man in whom lived the Spirit of God, the soul that belonged to the Son of God, he went anyway.

v31. "IF I BEAR WITNESS OF MYSELF, MY WITNESS IS NOT TRUE."

One man cannot bear witness of himself and that witness or that testimony be accepted as unimpeachable truth but other witnesses are required. This was true under the old Law, especially where a man's life was involved:

Numbers 35:30 "WHOSO KILLETH ANY PERSON, THE MURDERER SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH BY THE MOUTH OF WITNESSES: BUT ONE WITNESS SHALL NOT TESTIFY AGAINST ANY PERSON *to cause him* TO DIE."

But murder wasn't the only crime that required the testimony or more than one witness:

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Deuteronomy 19:15 "ONE WITNESS SHALL NOT RISE UP AGAINST A MAN FOR ANY INIQUITY, OR FOR ANY SIN, IN ANY SIN THAT HE SINNETH: AT THE MOUTH OF TWO WITNESSES, OR AT THE MOUTH OF THREE WITNESSES, SHALL THE MATTER BE ESTABLISHED."

Also in the New Testament we are not to accept a charge against an elder except it be confirmed by two or three witnesses (**I Timothy 5:19**). So if Jesus was the only one to testify of his deity and relationship with God then his witness would be untrue. So Jesus has other witnesses:

v32. "THERE IS ANOTHER THAT BEARETH WITNESS OF ME; AND I KNOW THAT THE WITNESS WHICH HE WITNESSETH OF ME IS TRUE."

The first witness called by Jesus was well known to the people of Judea:

v33. "YE SENT UNTO JOHN, AND HE BARE WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH."

We studied early in this book of John's witness regarding the origin of Jesus and who he was.

John 1:15 "JOHN BARE WITNESS OF HIM, AND CRIED, SAYING, THIS WAS HE OF WHOM I SPAKE, HE THAT COMETH AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME: FOR HE WAS BEFORE ME."

John 1:27 "HE IT IS, WHO COMING AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME, WHOSE SHOE'S LATCHET I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNLOOSE."

v34. "BUT I RECEIVE NOT TESTIMONY FROM MAN: BUT THOSE THINGS I SAY, THAT YE MIGHT BE SAVED."

Jesus received his testimony from God at his baptism and by the virtue of his power to perform miracles, among others. Here Jesus presents John as a witness and provides these witnesses in order that they might believe.

v35. "HE WAS A BURNING AND SHINING LIGHT: AND YE WERE WILLING FOR A SEASON TO REJOICE IN HIS LIGHT."

John was a teacher that showed them the way of the light of life and they followed him for a time; much as in the parable of the soils:

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Matthew 13:20 "BUT HE THAT RECEIVETH THE SEED INTO STONY PLACES, THE SAME IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD, AND ANON WITH JOY RECEIVETH IT;"

Since we have a complete revelation; a better grasp of God's word, a better understanding of prophecy, we should accept the light readily just as Peter tells us:

I Peter 2:19 "WE HAVE ALSO A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY; WHEREUNTO YE DO WELL THAT YE TAKE HEED, AS UNTO A LIGHT THAT SHINETH IN A DARK PLACE, UNTIL THE DAY DAWN, AND THE DAY STAR ARISE IN YOUR HEARTS."

v36. "BUT I HAVE GREATER WITNESS THAN *that* OF JOHN: FOR THE WORKS WHICH THE FATHER HATH GIVEN ME TO FINISH, THE SAME WORKS THAT I DO, BEAR WITNESS OF ME, THAT THE FATHER HATH SENT ME."

This is Jesus' second witness. The works performed by Jesus were witnesses of the source of His power and were such as Nicodemus saw:

John 3:2 "THE SAME CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT, AND SAID UNTO HIM, RABBI, WE KNOW THAT THOU ART A TEACHER COME FROM GOD: FOR NO MAN CAN DO THESE MIRACLES THAT THOU DOEST, EXCEPT GOD BE WITH HIM."

John 10:25 "JESUS ANSWERED THEM, I TOLD YOU, AND YE BELIEVED NOT: THE WORKS THAT I DO IN MY FATHER'S NAME, THEY BARE WITNESS OF ME."

And, of course, as we noted, the greatest witness is God himself:

I John 5:9 "IF WE RECEIVE THE WITNESS OF MEN, THE WITNESS OF GOD IS GREATER: FOR THIS IS THE WITNESS OF GOD WHICH HE HATH TESTIFIED OF HIS SON."

v37. "AND THE FATHER HIMSELF, WHICH HATH SENT ME, HATH BORNE WITNESS OF ME. YE HAVE NEITHER HEARD HIS VOICE AT ANY TIME, NOR SEEN HIS SHAPE."

John Chapter Five

Men have not seen God as John testifies in two places, first in **John 1:18** and again in **1 John 4:12** and those to whom Jesus was speaking had not heard the voice of God. Even though we see the evidence of God all around us daily, even though we have his complete revelation men refuse to hear God. Even Peter, who was one of Jesus' apostles, in his ignorance wanted to build three tabernacles:

Matthew 17:4 "THEN ANSWERED PETER, AND SAID UNTO JESUS, LORD, IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE: IF THOU WILT, LET US MAKE HERE THREE TABERNACLES; ONE FOR THEE, AND ONE FOR MOSES, AND ONE FOR ELIAS."

v38. "AND YE HAVE NOT HIS WORD ABIDING IN YOU: FOR WHOM HE HATH SENT, HIM YE BELIEVE NOT."

They went to hear John the Baptizer preach, but they did not believe John when he testified concerning Jesus being the Messiah.

v39. "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; FOR IN THEM YE THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: AND THEY ARE THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME."

In addition we have many witnesses in the old Law concerning Jesus. Two of the earliest in the Mosaic Law are found in Deuteronomy. The Jews read the scriptures and through they lived as children of God. It was these same scriptures that testified of Jesus the Christ.

Deuteronomy 18:15 "THE LORD THY GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, OF THY BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; UNTO HIM YE SHALL HEARKEN."

Deuteronomy 18:18 "I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM."

John testified of Jesus, God Himself, testified concerning Jesus at his baptism, Jesus testified of himself with the word of God and his miracles to verify his words. The scriptures testify of him even today and some of those Paul taught have presented to us as an example

John Chapter Five

Acts 17:11 “THERE WERE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, IN THAT THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL READINESS OF MIND, AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER THESE THINGS WERE SO.”

Jesus says “SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES” that we might have the abundance of God blessings in our lives:

John 10:10 “THE THIEF COMETH NOT, BUT FOR TO STEAL, AND TO KILL, AND TO DESTROY: I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE *it* MORE ABUNDANTLY.”

v40. “AND YE WILL NOT COME TO ME, THAT YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE.”

In spite of these testimonies of the scripture, the works of Jesus, the words of John many still did not accept him and come to him for the blessings of life. The situation today is no better.

Read John 5:41-47 – The Cause of Jewish Unbelief

v41. “I RECEIVE NOT HONOUR FROM MEN.”

Jesus did not rest his glory on the testimony of men; neither did the Apostle Paul:

I Thessalonians 2:6 “NOR OF MEN SOUGHT WE GLORY, NEITHER OF YOU, NOR *yet* OF OTHERS, WHEN WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BURDENSOME, AS THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST.”

v42. “BUT I KNOW YOU, THAT YE HAVE NOT THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOU.”

The reason for their unbelief was simply that they did not love God or God’s word in spite of what they claimed. Today is the same, the denominations were born because men rejected the word of God for their own wants and wishes even though John wrote.

I John 5:3 “FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT GREIVIOUS.”

v43. “I AM COME IN MY FATHER’S NAME, AND YE RECEIVE ME NOT: IF ANOTHER SHALL COME IN HIS OWN NAME, HIM YE WILL RECEIVE.”

John Chapter Five

Jesus came as a representative of his Father to stand in his place and do the works that his Father had sent him to do. But he was not received or accepted by many. These Jews rejected Jesus as the Son of God. But Jesus said that if another had come in his own name that they would accept him. I'm sure that if one would come as a deceiver did what men wanted, fit what men expected and told men what they wanted to hear that such a one would be welcomed with open arms. In fact we can see that happening all around us.

v44. "HOW CAN YE BELIEVE, WHICH RECEIVE HONOUR ONE OF ANOTHER, AND SEEK NOT THE HONOUR THAT *cometh* FROM GOD ONLY."

Those who seek the approval and praise of men and who do not seek the approval of God cannot believe in Christ. Whenever a church or a preacher sets out to be respectable or accepted by the surrounding world, or when a preacher or a church sets out to gain a position held high by other men or a position of influence among men they both cease to be useful to the cause of Christ. They have abandoned the cause of Christ for their own gain. These men and these congregations would do well to go out of business.

John 12:43 "FOR THEY LOVED THE PRAISE OF MEN MORE THAN THE PRAISE OF GOD."

Paul describes the faithful this way:

Romans 2:29 "BUT HE *is* A JEW, WHICH IS ONE INWARDLY; AND CIRCUMCISION *is that* OF THE HEART, IN THE SPIRIT, *and* NOT IN THE LETTER; WHOSE PRAISE IS NOT OF MEN, BUT OF GOD."

"HE *is* A JEW", that is, he is a child of God "WHICH IS ONE INWARDLY", his heart has been circumcised, his spirit is tuned and turned toward God, not just in the letter of God's commandments but he or she lives the spirit of God's precepts. His praise comes from God not men.

v45. "DO NOT THINK THAT I WILL ACCUSE YOU TO THE FATHER: THERE IS *one* THAT ACCUSETH YOU, *even* MOSES, IN WHOM YE TRUST."

They claimed to hold to Moses Law but they had modified and perverted the Mosaic Law with their traditions, the writing of their elders and their legalistic practices to the extent that even Moses would condemn them.

John Chapter Five

Romans 2:12 “FOR AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED WITHOUT LAW SHALL ALSO PERISH WITHOUT LAW: AND AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED IN THE LAW SHALL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW.”

v46. “FOR HAD YE BELIEVED MOSES, YE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED ME: FOR HE WROTE OF ME.”

The earliest record by Moses is God’s promise to Eve found in the book of beginnings:

Genesis 3:15 “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.”

Other witnesses are in **Deuteronomy 18** as we studied along with earlier verses. Paul states that he preached nothing more than was testified of by Moses and the prophets:

Acts 26:22 “HAVING THEREFORE OBTAINED HELP OF GOD, I CONTINUE UNTO THIS DAY, WITNESSING BOTH TO SMALL AND GREAT, SAYING NONE OTHER THINGS THAN THOSE WHICH THE PROPHETS AND MOSES DID SAY SHOULD COME.”

v47. “BUT IF YE BELIEVE NOT HIS WRITINGS, HOW SHALL YE BELIEVE MY WORDS?”

Jesus closes this discussion with these words, if you didn’t believe the words that Moses wrote concerning the Messiah to come, how can believe the Son of God himself, when he testifies personally?