

## Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

### C. The Second Passover of Jesus' Ministry

#### 3. Jesus Is Both Judge, and Giver of Eternal Life

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #062

Base Text: JN 5.21-30 (Parallel Texts: None)

*21 "For as the Father raises the dead and gives them eternal life, in just the same way the Son also gives eternal life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has permanently entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all people may continue to honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever is not honoring the Son is not honoring the Father, who sent him.*

*24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and continues to believe in him who sent me has eternal life and will not ever be judged, but has crossed over decisively from death to life.*

*25 "Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has eternal life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have eternal life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.*

*28 "Stop being amazed at this... for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out--those who have done what is good will rise to live eternally, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.*

*30 "By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I always seek not to please myself, but him who sent me."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Temple Courts, Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April, 31 AD (Month Fifteen)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	C. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Passover of Jesus' Ministry
Title	3. Jesus Claims To Be Both Judge, and Giver of Eternal Life

COMMENT:

In today's reading Jesus continued to set forth his massive claims to be God.

Having established the fact that he is always living and working as God, in perfect fellowship and oneness with his Father (5.15-20), Jesus next stunned his audience with his claim to have primary Divine responsibility for two "works" that only God can do:

(1) raising every dead person back to life, and then rendering final judgement upon them, and

(2) giving eternal life to all who believe in him. These two "works" made Jesus' earlier claim to be Divinely qualified to "work" on the Sabbath seem small.

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Jesus first claimed to have the Divine power to raise every dead person in history back to life--instantly--and then render his eternal, final judgement verdict upon them (5.21-23, 25, 27-29). Throughout the Old Testament only God is considered to be righteous enough, and powerful enough to render absolute judgement.

When Jesus said that all Divine judgement had been entrusted to him by the Trinity he was making a claim that normally identifies anyone who makes it as insane. No human being in their right mind would want that responsibility, much less believe they have it.

Furthermore, Jesus said he had the power to resurrect all of the dead people in the world since Adam. This is another insane claim. The resurrection/final judgement combination is one of most audacious claims ever made on this earth. Do not miss this.

In this reading (5.21, 24, 26) Jesus also repeated his claim to have the Divine power to give eternal life--God's own quality of life--to whomever he wanted to give it to, with the effortlessness of batting an eyelash. Humans cannot guarantee anything about the future life of anybody! Only God can guarantee a life that lasts forever. This is another claim by Jesus that is unlike anything else ever promised in human history...the sheer scale of it is almost incomprehensible.

Since Jesus had the power to give eternal life, he was also able to promise it as a gift to everyone who believes in him. We have seen that he made this promise repeatedly in his ministry to this point (JN 3.15-16; 4.10). He was proclaiming in the Temple what he had been promising all along. What a powerful source of encouragement and confidence this promise is to all who believe in him! Read verse 24 again to see this.

These statements make it certain that Jesus was (is) fully convinced he was Divine in every sense that his Father was (is) God. No one who believes they are a normal human being makes claims like this. No "good religious teacher," or philosopher, or moralist makes assertions like this, for they are untrue if spoken by any mere man. Only a truly insane person, OR a person who is truly God--in every sense that the Scriptures speak of God--would ever lay claim to these powers. This is precisely the point Jesus was making.

Jesus used double meaning in his expression of people "hearing" his Divine voice in verse 25. Spiritually "dead" people can "hear" his voice through his word and promises in this life, and receive the gift of eternal life now. This is what happens when the gospel is preached and a person believes as a result. Physically dead people will hear his voice when he raises all of the dead persons of history at one time in the future--at the final resurrection and judgement. Jesus would later raise Lazarus from the dead by calling him from the grave as vivid proof of the way he will likewise raise all people in the same way.

The bottom line is that Jesus is to be honored as God, in every way that his Father is honored as God, for he is one with the Father as God in all things. ***"...that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. The person who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him."*** 5.23

### APPLICATION:

Jesus not only spoke these things, he also proved their truth by resurrecting himself from the dead. He is worthy of all Divine worship, and the utmost reverent awe. He is God.

Beware of too much familiarity with Jesus. He is truly the "friend of sinners," but the wonder of wonders is that he is just that, as GOD!

*What degree of honor do you give Jesus? Do you revere him as God, in all that you are? In what specific ways can you honor him more, today?*