

THE ASTOUNDING AUTHORITY: EQUALITY WITH GOD JOHN 05:17–30

Jesus Christ Claims Deity

All men have to face this earth shaking, shattering claim of Christ. He made the astounding claim that all authority belonged to Him. How could He make such an astounding claim? Because He proclaimed that He possessed equality with God and then He proceeded to give proof after proof which unequivocally verified His claim.

- I. Jesus claimed equality with God (vv. 17-18).
- II. Proof 1: His obedience (v. 19).
- III. Proof 2: His great works (v. 20).
- IV. Proof 3: His power to quicken, to give life, to raise people from the dead (v. 21).
- V. Proof 4: His control over the whole judicial process of judgment (vv. 22-23).
- VI. Proof 5: His power over people's destiny, to save people from death (vv. 24-25).
- VII. Proof 6: His energy of life, His self-existence (v. 26).
- VIII. Proof 7: His authority to execute judgment (v. 27).
- IX. Proof 8: His claim to be the Son of Man (v. 27).
- X. Proof 9: His power to resurrect all people from the grave (vv. 28-30).

I. *John 05:17–18 Jesus Christ Claims Deity and Religionists Opposed Him*

Jesus claimed equality with God. Note the astounding claim: He called God “My Father” not “our Father.” Jesus was claiming a unique relationship, a Father-Son union with God; and note: the shattering fact was *clearly understood* by the religionists. They understood clearly...

- that He had said God was *His Father*. (See Rom. 8:32.)
- that He was making Himself equal with God. (Phil. 2:6.)

His claim was unquestionable. They knew exactly what He was claiming. (See Jn. 1:34.)

A second claim was this: Jesus said, “My Father is always at his work” (heos arti ergazetai), which means “My Father keeps on working even until now.” That is, God never ceases to work, even on the Sabbath (Sunday). It is true that when God created the world, Scripture says He rested on the Sabbath day; but this means He rested from His creative work, not from His other work. His work of love and mercy, helping and caring (compassion), looking after and overseeing (sovereignty) continued. Note: Jesus said. “And I too am working,” meaning that He did good on the Sabbath as well as God. Again, He was claiming to be equal with God, claiming to have the same right to work even as

God works: that is, to erase the wrong laws of men and to establish the just and compassionate laws of God.

It was for these two reasons that the religionists tried to kill Jesus.

1. He clearly said, “My Father,” claiming that God was His Father and making Himself *equal* with God. He was clearly claiming that He was “*the* Son of God,” “the one and only Son of God” (see Jn. 3:16).
2. He broke the law against working on the Sabbath (Sunday), claiming that He had the same authority as God, the authority to do good on the Sabbath: to be compassionate by teaching and helping and caring for men.

Thought 1. A person either accepts the claim of Jesus to be equal with God or else he rejects the claim. The claim was clearly made. There is no longer a middle ground upon which men can stand. Man is now forced to make a decision.

Thought 2. Some take the words and behaviour of Jesus on the Sabbath as the approval for working on Sunday. This is false reasoning. Jesus was not violating nor erasing the Lord’s day as the day for man’s rest and worship. Just the opposite is true. He was saying that the day was to be used for compassion and mercy and good, helping men in their needs.

II. *John 05:19 The Obedience of Jesus Christ*

The first proof that Jesus was equal with God was His obedience. Jesus stated two astounding facts.

1. He did not act alone. He did not act independently of God (see Jn. 5:30; 7:28; 8:28; 14:10). He was not disobedient to God. He did not...
 - take His life into His own hands
 - do His own thing
 - act selfishly
 - walk separately from God

Note the stress, the crucial importance of this point. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth”; that is, listen, listen. Pay close attention to what is said.

2. He did exactly what He saw the Father do. There was no divergence whatsoever between the Father and Jesus. There are three claims here.

=> *Jesus was in perfect, unbroken communion with God.*

=> *Jesus was of the very same nature and person as God.*

=> *Jesus acted as God because He was God:* He did exactly what God did. He did “the very same things” (*tauta*) in “the very same manner” (*homoios*). He acted and behaved exactly as God acted and behaved.

Jesus Christ was perfectly obedient; He acted exactly in the nature of God. (What a lesson on obedience! A challenge *for* obedience!)

Mat 11:27 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

John 7:29 “But I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

John 10:15 “Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”

John 10:37-38 “Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

John 14:10 “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

John 17:11 “I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one.”

John 17:21-22 “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.”

John 17:25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.”

III. John 05:20 The Great Works of Jesus Christ

The second proof that Jesus was equal with God was His great works. Two astounding statements were made. (See Jn. 5:36.)

1. The Father loves the Son. The idea is that the Father continues to love and never stops loving the Son. There is never a moment when the love diminishes. It is a perfect love that never ceases to give.

John 10:17 “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again.”

Mark 1:10-11 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

John 16:27 “No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”

John 17:23 “I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:26 “I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

Col 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

Heb 5:5 So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.”

John 14:21 “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (see Jn 14:23)

John 15:9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

2. Therefore, the Father showed the Son all things which He did.
 - a. All things which Jesus did were the very things which the Father did.
 - b. Jesus said that the Father was going to show Him greater things to do, greater things than the healing of the paralyzed man (vv. 8-9). Jesus would be...
 - controlling the forces of nature (storms on the Sea of Galilee).
 - multiplying food.
 - raising the dead and healing crowds of people.
 - instituting a greater law, the law of the Son of Man. (See Mt. 5:17-18.)
 - instituting new ordinances.
 - creating people anew.

John 5:36 “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.”

John 9:4 “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

John 10:25 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me.”

John 14:10-11 “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me,

who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”

John 10:37-38 *“Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

John 15:24 *“If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.”*

IV. John 05:21 Jesus Christ’s Power to Give Life

The third proof that Jesus was equal with God was His power to give life.

1. God gives life, and only God *can* give life. Therefore if He wishes to give life to a dead body, He can. In giving life and raising the dead, God...
 - is sovereign, acting fully as He alone wills.
 - is not constrained nor restrained.
 - has the power and authority.
 - exercises perfect love, justice and wisdom. He knows exactly what He is doing, and He does it perfectly.
2. The Son, Jesus Christ, gives life to whom *He wills*. Just as God does, so Christ does. Christ is equal with God in giving life and raising the dead. Note...
 - there is a state of death (See *Death*, Heb. 9:27).
 - there is a state of life, of being quickened, of being made alive from the dead. (See Eph. 2:1f.)

Christ quickens, gives life to a person when that person believes on Him, and the life which He gives is both abundant and eternal (see Jn. 3:16).

Mat 9:6 *But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”*

Mat 28:18 *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

John 17:2 *“For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.”*

Rom 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

Eph 2:1 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. (see vv. 2-3)*

Eph 2:4-9 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Col 2:13 *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*

HEBREWS 09:27 DEATH (THANATOS)

The basic meaning of death is *separation*. Death never means extinction, annihilation, nonexistence, or inactivity. “Death is the separation of a person from the purpose or use for which he was intended.” (H.S. Miller. Quoted by Lehman Strauss. *Devotional Studies in Galatians and Ephesians*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Bros. Copyright 1957 by Lehman Strauss, p. 137.)

The Bible speaks of three deaths.

1. Physical death: the *separation* of a man’s spirit or life from the body. This is what men commonly call death. It is when a person ceases to exist on this earth and is buried (1 Cor. 15:21-22; Heb. 9:27).

1 Cor 15:21-22 *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

Heb 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.*

2. Spiritual death: the *separation* of man’s spirit from God while he is still living and walking upon earth. This death is the *natural state* of a man on earth without Christ. Man is seen as still in his sins and *dead* to God (Eph. 2:1; 4:18; 1 Jn. 5:12).

Spiritual death speaks of a person who is dead while he still lives (1 Tim. 5:6). He is a natural man living in this present world, but he is said to be dead to the Lord Jesus Christ and to God and to spiritual matters.

- a. A person who wastes his life in wild living is spiritually dead.

Luke 15:32 *“But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”*

- b. A person who has not partaken of Christ is spiritually dead.

John 6:53 *Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”*

- c. A person who does not have the spirit of Christ is said to be spiritually dead.

Rom 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

- d. A person who lives in sin is said to be spiritually dead.

Eph 2:1 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.*

Col 2:13 *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*

- e. A person who is separated from God is said to be spiritually dead.

Eph 4:18-19 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

- f. A person who sleeps in sin is spiritually dead.

Eph 5:14 *For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

- g. A person who lives in sinful pleasure is dead while he lives.

1 Tim 5:6 *But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

- h. A person who does not have the Son of God is dead.

1 John 5:12 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- i. A person who does great religious works but does the wrong works is dead.

Rev 3:1 *"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."*

3. Eternal death: the *separation* of man from God's presence forever. This is the second death, an eternal state of being *dead to God*. (1 Cor. 6:9-10; 2 Th. 1:9). It is spiritual death, separation from God, that is prolonged beyond the death of the body. It is called the "second death" or eternal death.

Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 8:6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

2 Th 1:9 *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. □*

V. *John 05:22–23 Jesus Christ, the Supreme Judge*

The fourth proof that Jesus was equal with God was His control over the whole judicial process. Most men think that God (the Father) will judge the world and that they will have to stand before God in the day of judgment. But not so, Jesus says. He claims that God will judge “no one, but [He] has entrusted *all judgment to the Son*.” The scene is the picture of a supreme court — not just the supreme court of a nation, but the supreme court of the universe presided over by Jesus Christ.

Acts 17:31 “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Mat 25:32 “All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Acts 10:42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 17:31 “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Rom 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Rom 14:10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

2 Tim 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

1 Pet 4:5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1. The purpose for all judgment being given to Christ is onefold: God has willed that all men honour the Son just as they honour Him. The idea is that God has determined that everyone will *keep on honouring the Son* with the very same honour and worship they give Him. (This is seen in the Greek tense which is *present active subjective*.)
2. This is a truth that shatters people, for it means that if a person does not honour Christ, he does not honour God; and if he does not worship Christ, he does not worship God.

John 15:23 “He who hates me hates my Father as well.”

1 John 2:23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

Luke 10:16 “He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

Mark 8:38 “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

1 John 2:22 Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist — he denies the Father and the Son.

VI. John 05:24–25 Jesus Christ Holds Man’s Destiny

The fifth proof that Jesus was equal with God was His power over man’s destiny, the power to save men from death to life. Note three significant points.

1. How men are saved.
 - a. They are saved by hearing Jesus’ Word. The idea is *commitment and obedience* to it. In order to be saved, men must hear and follow Jesus’ Word, doing exactly as He says.
 - b. They are saved by believing God, that is, by believing that God has sent His Son Jesus Christ to save them.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. The result of being saved: eternal life. A man passes from the state of death into the state of life, from the state of condemnation into the state of justification. When a man is truly saved, he is never condemned to die; he is declared righteous and given eternal life. Note the descriptive way of expressing it: “has crossed over from death to life.” Note also that man is presently in a *state of death*, that is, man is in the process of dying. Man *must die and will die*. He cannot stop the process. (See *Death*, Heb. 9:27. See Eph. 2:1, 5; 5:14.)
3. The facts are twofold. A time has come and now is...
 - when the spiritually dead *can hear* the voice of the Son of God.
 - when the spiritually dead who *hear* can live.

2 Cor 6:2 For he says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favour, now is the day of salvation.

John 3:36 “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

JOHN 05:25 JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD

There are three places in the Gospel of John where Jesus calls Himself the Son of God (Jn. 5:25; 10:36; 11:4; see Jn. 19:7). Note also the claim to be the Son (Jn. 5:19-23, 26; 6:40; 8:35-36; 14:13; 19:1). John's stated purpose should also be noted at this point.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. □

VII. *John 05:26 Jesus Christ, the Source of Life*

The sixth proof that Jesus was equal with God was His energy of life, His self-existence. God is the...

- Energy of life
- Source of life
- Power of life
- Essence of life
- Being of life
- Sovereign of life
- Possessor of life
- Self-existent life

God has life within Himself. And note: God has given the very same energy of life to the Son. Jesus Christ possesses “the very being” of life, the power and energy of self-existence within Himself.

The implication is clear: Jesus Christ has the power to give eternal life to those who hear Him and believe in God.

Gen 2:7 The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Deu 30:20 And that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Psa 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Psa 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Psa 42:8 By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me — a prayer to the God of my life.

Psa 66:9 He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."*

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Rom 5:21 *So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2 Tim 1:10 *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

1 John 5:12 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

VIII. John 05:27 Jesus Christ's Power to Execute Judgment

The seventh proof that Jesus was equal with God was His power to execute judgment. Jesus Christ is the Son of Man, having lived just as all sons of men live. He walked through life as Man, bearing all the weight and pressure, trials and temptations, sufferings and death, joys and victories that men experience. He knows every facet and fiber of human life; therefore, He is able to execute perfect judgment. For this reason, God has given Him the right and the authority to judge men.

IX. John 05:27 Jesus Christ, the Son of Man

The eighth proof that Jesus was equal with God was His claim to be the Son of Man. This was Jesus' favourite description of Himself. See Jn. 3:13-14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:3-34; 13:31.)

Jesus Christ is the Son of Man. This does not mean that Jesus was born of a man. It means that He is more than what an ordinary man is, more than a son of some man. Jesus is what every man ought to be, *the Son of Man Himself*.

1. Jesus Christ is the Ideal Man: the *Representative Man*, the *Perfect Man*, the *Pattern*, the *Embodiment* of everything a man ought to be (See *Birth of Jesus Christ, Son of Man*, Mt. 1:16). Jesus Christ is the *perfect picture* of a man. Everything God wants a man to be is seen perfectly in Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:14; Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 1:3).
2. Jesus Christ is the *Ideal Servant* of man. The term *Ideal Servant* stresses Jesus' sympathy for the poor, the broken hearted, the captives, the blind, the bruised, the outcasts, the bereaved (Lk. 4:18). Jesus is the pattern, the model, the perfect example of concern and caring. He served other people just like every man ought to serve other people.

Jesus called Himself "the Son of Man" about eight times. It was His favourite term. The title *Son of Man* is probably based upon the Son of Man in Daniel 7:13-14. There

is also a picture of Jesus as the heavenly Son of Man contrasted with Adam as the earthly Man in 1 Cor. 15:45-47. Both references picture Jesus as *the Representative Man, the Ideal Man*, in God's plan for world history.

Mat 8:20 *Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

Mat 9:6 *"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."*

Mat 20:28 *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mat 24:27 *"For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."*

Mark 8:38 *"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*

Luke 18:8 *"I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

John 5:26-27 *"For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man."*

John 6:53 *Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."*

John 12:23 *Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*

John 13:31-32 *When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once."*

Mat 16:13, 16 *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Acts 7:56 *"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*

Rev 1:12-13 *I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.*

X. *John 05:28–30 Power to Resurrect All Men*

The ninth proof that Jesus was equal with God was His power to resurrect all men from the grave. Note several facts.

1. It is the voice — the Word, the power of Jesus — that shall resurrect “all who are in their graves.”
2. “All who are in their graves” shall be resurrected. Not a single one will be left in the earth. Everyone will “come out.”
3. “A time is coming” when all shall be resurrected. The time is set, fixed, already determined.
4. Men must “not be amazed at this.” It is not incredible or ridiculous, for *God is*; He does exist, and He has a plan for the world. The world has not just happened. Life has not happened by chance, without purpose and meaning beyond a few brief years. Life is not doomed, without hope, destined to despair and dirt. There is meaning, purpose, and significance, both to life and to the world.
5. Men who have done good “will rise to live” (the resurrection of life). How one lives matters. The man who professes and lives for God will take part in the resurrection of life, but they who have done evil will “rise to be condemned” (the resurrection of damnation) (judgment, condemnation, see Jn. 3:17). What a person has professed will not matter. All that will matter will be how a person has lived. Has he lived righteously and godly in this present world — believing in Christ and serving Him? Believing in Christ means that a person has committed His life to follow Christ, to obey and serve Him (see Jn. 2:2).

Thought 1. Note two critical facts about the resurrection.

- 1) There is to be a resurrection of all who have believed and obeyed the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5:25 “*I tell you the truth, 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.*”

John 6:40 “*For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*”

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”*

1 Cor 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

2 Cor 4:14 *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

1 Th 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Psa 49:15 *But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself.*

Psa 71:20 *Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.*

Hosea 13:14 *“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? I will have no compassion.”*

2) There is to be a resurrection not only of believers but also of all those who have rejected and disobeyed the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5:28-29 *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.*

Acts 24:15 *And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

Dan 12:2 *Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

6. The judgment of Christ will be a *just* judgment. He will judge precisely as He “hears,” exactly as *God wills*. He hears and does the will of God perfectly; therefore, He will hear God and execute God’s judgment exactly as He wills. Only men who have lived godly lives will rise to live. All others will rise to be condemned.

Mat 16:27 *“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

Rom 2:6 *God will give to each person according to what he has done.*

2 Cor 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

1 Pet 1:17 *Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.*

Rev 20:12-15 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them,*

and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 22:12 *“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”*

Psa 62:12 *And that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.*

Jer 17:10 *“I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.” ■*