

I Will Raise Up

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters

John 2:12-25

The question, “Who is Jesus?” must be answered and there is no more important single question in this life. The disciples faced this question as well and had to provide the Lord an answer. **Matthew 16:13–16**, *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” The disciples provided many several answers, And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” There is only one correct answer, He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”* **16** Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- God (**John 1:1**, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*)
- God and Savior (**Titus 2:13**, *Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*)
- “Mighty God” (**Isaiah 9:6**, *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*)
- “I AM” – (**John 8:58**, *Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*)
- The “first and last.” (**Revelation 1:17**, *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last,*
- Lord of lords/King of kings (**Revelation 17:14**, *They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.*”
- Alpha and Omega (**Revelation 22:13**, *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*”
- He is one in essence with the Father (**John 10:30**, *I and the Father are one.*”
- He is the “exact representation of His nature” (**Hebrews 1:3**, *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*
- He is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe (**John 1:3**, *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- In Him dwells all the fullness of Deity (**Colossians 2:9**, *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*)
- He forgives sin (**Mark 2:7**, *“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”* **Mark 2:10**, *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—*)
- Raises the Dead (**John 5:21**, *For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.*)
- Receives worship reserved for God alone (**Philippians 2:10**, *So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

Clearly, the Biblical evidence leads to only one possible conclusion: Jesus Christ is God.¹ Let God be God and every man a liar. Everything we believe must have a Scripture reference! We can easily be seduced into believing in a god that is not found in Scripture.

I. Man’s Sinful Heart Secularizes the Sacred (John 2:12-17)

A. The Lord’s Passover (2:12-13)

1. It was the Lord’s Passover (**Leviticus 23:4–5**, *“These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. 5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the Lord’s Passover.*
 - a) Passover commemorated Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt (Ex 12:23-27)
 - b) The Passover’s centerpiece was the lamb that was slain and the Passover meal.
2. Passover had become the “Jew’s Passover” (**John 2:13**, *The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*) (cf. John 6:4; 11:55; 5:1; 7:2)

¹ MacArthur, John F., Jr. *John 1–11*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 2006.

- a) It was commercialized, big business each year in Jerusalem as Jewish families traveled to Jerusalem.
 - b) The Temple had become a marketplace for cattle (offerings) and currency exchange (temple tax).
- B. The Lord's Temple (2:14-16)
 - 1. The Purpose of the Temple (**1 Kings 8:10–11**, *And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, **11** so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*)
 - a) It was the dwelling place of God.
 - b) It was the meeting place of the people with God.
 - c) It was a place of worship and offering of sacrifices to God.
 - d) It was a place to "wash" (sacrifice) spiritual uncleanness (no sin).
 - e) It was a place of prayer.
 - 2. The Son's Cleansing (2:15-16)
 - a) The Scrouge and the Cleansing
 - b) My Father's house (His dwelling place) (Luke 2:49) (His Sonship & Messiahship)
 - 3. The Examples of Temple Purity (Azariah (2 Chronicles 26:17-18, 20) & Nehemiah (Neh 13:15-22))
- C. The Disciples memory (2:17)
 - 1. The witnesses of the disciples
 - 2. Psalm 69:9, Zeal for God's Temple leads to enemies.

II. Man's Sinful Heart misses the Sure Sign (John 2:18-22)

- A. Signs Sought (18)
 - 1. This question was a direct challenge to our Lord's authority; they were not seeking information.
 - 2. People resist, rebel, refuse, and run from the authority of the Creator.
 - a) **John 11:47**, *So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.*
 - b) **John 12:37**, *Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,*
- B. Signs Given (19)
- C. Signs Missed (20)
 - a) The issue was unbelief; the Jewish authorities unbelief resulted in wicked behavior and exposed their hard-heartedness. Their refusal to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, is seen in our Lord's second cleansing of the Temple just a couple of years later.
 - b)
 - c) **John 3:3–4**, *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"*
 - d) **John 4:14–15**, *But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **15** The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."*
 - e) **John 6:32–35**, *Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." **34** They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." **35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*
 - f) **John 6:51–52**, *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." **52** The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"*
 - g) **John 7:34–36**, *You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." **35** The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? **36** What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"*
 - h) **John 8:51–53**, *Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." **52** The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' **53** Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?"*

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- i) **John 8:56–57**, *Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.*”
57 *So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”*
- D. Sign Foretold (21-22)
1. **2 Corinthians 4:4**, *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 2. **God must reveal to us (call) the gospel & spiritual things. Matthew 16:17**, *And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

III. Man’s Sinful Heart Mistakes Intellectual Agreement with Saving Faith (John 2:23-25)

- A. Intellectual Faith (I believe the sky is blue or this man is a miracle worker) is not saving faith.
1. **John 6:26**, *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you...”*
 2. Satan and his demon followers acknowledge God and His position, intellectually. (**James 2:19**, *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*)
 3. The faith that saves is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9)
- B. Jesus did not believe these “believers”
1. Our Lord, *“regarded all belief in Him as superficial which does not have as its most essential elements the consciousness of the need for forgiveness and the conviction that He alone is the Mediator of that forgiveness”²*
- C. Intellectual Agreement lacks
1. The acknowledgement of God’s Holiness and lack thereof.
 2. The revelation of Jesus Christ as the sole Mediator (the Lamb of God, John 1:29, 34,36, 49)
 3. The depths of our sinful state
 4. An agreement that Jesus is Lord, and that Jesus is resurrected. (Romans 10.9)

² Tasker, R. V. G. The Gospel According to St. John. The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.