

**JOHN 5:37-38**  
**TESTIMONY OF THE FATHER!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 5 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

And I realize that we have been in John chapter 5 for some time now, but it is one of those chapters that is so important for us to take our time and go through. We need to understand what the Lord is saying here and it is the focus of what the Gospel of John is all about.

I think you know where I am going with this, at least I hope you do since we have spent so much time in this chapter.

What we see here in John chapter 5 is Jesus showing us that He is Almighty God, the Second person of the Holy Trinity. And I think for most of us, if not all of us, we understand that.

But there are those that don't, and this is a foundational issue to the Christian faith, and we need to not only understand it, but to defend what we believe about Jesus, that He is Almighty God!

Today we see groups like the Emergent Church leading people away from the truths of God found in the word of God!

At an emergent church workshop in San Diego about fifteen years ago, former national coordinator of the Emergent Village, Tony Jones stated the following,

***“This is about our belief that theology changes. The message of the gospel changes. It’s not just the method that changes.”***

I hope that disturbs you because it really disturbs me.

You see, he is saying that what we believe, what the Bible is telling us, the theology or doctrine that the Bible speaks of, will change over time and it has changed.

Not only will doctrine change, but he narrows it down to the Gospel, that the Gospel changes.

In other words, Jesus was just a good teacher teaching us how to live out our lives and He is not Almighty God who came to save us from our sins. Thus, we do not have to repent of our sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, we just need to follow His example of how to live!

I will share with you just one verse that not only shows what we are to do but is a warning of these men who have crept into the church to bring in these destructive heresies. In Jude 1:3-4 we are told, **“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Does our theology or doctrine change?

Jude says – ***NO!***

Does the Gospel change?

Jude says – ***NO!***

This salvation that has been given to us is being attacked and we must earnestly contend for this faith that has been entrusted to us, not a changing faith or doctrine, but that **“which was once for all delivered to the saints.”**

And it has been delivered to us by God and we read of these things in the Bible, God's Word!

And the results of this false teaching that is growing is that, in a survey from 2020 we see that 52 percent of American adults believe that Jesus was a great teacher and nothing more. If Jesus' claim to be God is false, then He was either delusional or deceptive, but He could not have been a great teacher.

And what these false teachers are doing is working on the youth because if you get them when they are young, you got them for life. They are not as concerned about the older Christians because we will either conform or die. So they continue to infect the youth and churches with this deadly cancer and the only solution is to get back to the truths of God found in the Word of God and believe what God has said, and not listen to the doctrines of demons that man is putting forth! (I Timothy 4:1-2)

That is why we are spending so much time in this chapter, because Jesus makes it very clear, without a doubt, that He is Almighty God!

Keep in mind that this interaction with the Jewish religious leaders is born out of Jesus healing a man who was lame for thirty-eight years, he couldn't walk and now Jesus has healed him.

The only problem, well, the only problem for one group of people, the Jewish religious leaders, is that Jesus did this on the Sabbath and that was not Kosher, at least in their mind!

And we see the response by the Jewish religious leaders as John tells us, **“For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.”** John 5:16.

But Jesus pushes the envelope because He tells them that He has the authority to heal on the Sabbath because just as His Father is working, He too works, even on the Sabbath!

Now we may miss the point that Jesus was making but the Jewish religious leaders didn't, and they were furious at what He was claiming!

What was He claiming?

That He is God, equal with the Father!

Now there are those who would say that Jesus was not saying that, but when you listen to the response of the Jewish religious leaders, they knew exactly what Jesus was saying! We are told in John 5:18, after Jesus made that claim, **“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”**

And keep in mind that this is not something that Jesus did once, claiming that He is Almighty God, He did it over and over again and these Jewish religious leaders understood that, and it drove them to finally put Jesus to death! And the reason was simple, that He, being a man, made Himself equal with God!

Yes, He was fully man in the Incarnation, but He was also fully God! His claim is true, and Jesus is trying to draw out their faith, help them to see that this is true!

Listen to what Jesus said in regard to His deity, that He and the Father are equal.

***EQUALITY WITH THE FATHER IN CREATION!*** (John 5:17-18)

***EQUALITY WITH THE FATHER IN POWER!*** (John 5:19-21)

***EQUALITY WITH THE FATHER TO JUDGE!*** John 5:22-30)

And as we have said in our previous studies, the Jewish religious leaders did not agree with the testimony of Jesus and thus, Jesus gives to them witnesses to what others have said regarding who He is. You see, as the Bible tells us, by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter will be established.

What we see here is that Jesus gives them the testimony or witness of four different things and five if you count Moses in John 5:45-46.

We saw back in John 5:31-35 the testimony of John the Baptist and that John bore witness to the truth. He recognized Jesus as Almighty God, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. No man could do that, but God could and did!

And for the Jewish religious leaders, if they agreed with John the Baptist, then they would have to accept the testimony of John the Baptist regarding Jesus. If they rejected what John the Baptist was testifying of, then they would be in trouble with the common people because they saw John the Baptist as a man sent by God!

That was a powerful witness but there is more.

Last time we looked at the testimony of miracles. And the greatest miracle was that Jesus rose from the dead! This is the work that God the Father sent God the Son to do, to pay the debt of sin that man could never pay!

How does that prove that Jesus is God?

The Jewish religious leaders knew perfectly well because only God could forgive sins and thus, what Jesus did by paying in full the penalty for our sins, to forgive us of our sins, shows that He is God!

This morning we are going to look at the third testimony showing that Jesus is God, and it is a powerful testimony. You see, this testimony goes far beyond the testimony of any man.

This is a – ***TESTIMONY OF THE FATHER!***

Now to deny this one is tough, how in the world are you going to come against the Words of Father God? And yet, some do.

And yes, we can come against the words of man, but again, not God the Father!

Let me show you what I mean about people saying anything that they want.

There is a television commercial for Law and Order that at first, confused me, but the way it is done is brilliant.

It goes something like this.

***“You can claim anything you want, as long as you legally take it back!”***

And then it goes on to say about Law and Order . . .

***“With over 25,000 episodes!”***

***“Winner of 70 Academy Awards!”***

***“Nominated for seven Nobel Peace awards!”***

And it sounds great but when you begin to think about it, the information is false.

Think about it.

There is no way that they had over 25,000 episodes! Even if they had 50 episodes a year, which they did not have, that would mean it has been on 500 years. I know this show has been on television a long time, but not that long!

How can they claim something like that?

Because, in the commercial they have someone say, ***“I object!”***

And then those words, ***“Withdrawn!”***

The same with the Academy Awards they claim they have won. Academy awards are for movies, not television shows!

***“I object!”***

***“Withdrawn!”***

And the one I knew was wrong at first, the others I had to think about a little more, was the nomination for seven Nobel Peace prizes!

***“I object!”***

***“Withdrawn!”***

Those are the words of men, many times they are outlandish, not true but the Words of God we can trust, and we can trust the testimony of John the Baptist because Jesus tells us that **“he has borne witness to the truth.”** John 5:33.

But this morning we are going to be looking at the – ***TESTIMONY OF THE FATHER!***

And I have broken these verses down like this. They are,

***THE EVIDENCE – JOHN 5:37***

***THE REJECTION – JOHN 5:38***

So with that as our introduction, let’s begin looking at this third witness to prove that Jesus is Almighty God!

Let’s begin reading in John chapter 5, beginning in verse 37 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

**JOHN 5****VERSE 37**

Here we see the third witness and this witness is from God the Father who spoke of who Jesus is.

And here is the problem for these Jewish religious leaders. They can't hear God the Father audibly, or see Him, but they have His Word. And I will talk more about that in a few minutes.

But here again is the problem for them. They are guilty because they do not abide in the Word that God gave them.

What do I mean by that?

I mean that God the Father testified of God the Son in the Scriptures.

Some may wonder where that is. But if you begin in Genesis it is given to us. That the seed of the woman would bring forth a Son that would crush the serpent's head.

We also see that Satan will bruise the heel of the Messiah, not a mortal wound.

Yes, Jesus was crucified but He rose the third day from the grave conquering death! It is as Paul said in Galatians chapter 3, **“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ . . . What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”** Galatians 3:16, 19.

And this seed is the Messiah, Jesus, who will bring a mortal wound upon Satan; he will ultimately be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity!



And in this I see a hint of the coming Messiah, the seed of the woman. You see, it is the man that has the seed and thus, I see here the virgin birth.

We see in Isaiah that the Messiah would be wounded for our sins, and it is through the iniquity of us all that we are healed by the Messiah as our sins are taken away! (Isaiah 53)

And listen carefully to what we are told in Isaiah 48:16-17, **“Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.’ Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.”**

Now the big question that comes up here in verse 16 is *“Who is speaking?”*

As you look at the context here, I think it is very clear that the One who is speaking is Jesus.

How can I be so sure?

Because, as you read these verses, I think verse 17 makes that very clear as it says **“Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer . . .”**

And notice that Jesus is speaking, and it is the Father and the Holy Spirit that send Jesus into the world to be that sacrificial Lamb and take away the sins of the world, and He freely submitted Himself to that mission.

In other words, this verse is saying **“Yahweh your Redeemer”** because Jesus is God, the second person of the Holy Trinity and we see the Trinity spoken of here in these two verses, Isaiah 48:16-17!

So here we see the testimony of God the Father about the Redeemer, who is Jesus, and He is God, **“Yahweh your Redeemer”**!

And I think you can clearly see that it is God the Father who sent God the Son into this world to pay in full the penalty for our sins! Remember what we are told in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

Who sent His Son into this world to save sinful man?

God the Father sent Jesus, the Word into the world that through Him we might be saved!

Let me show you some passages from the Scriptures that show the witness of the Father!

Here is a big one and it is very clear what God the Father is saying about Jesus.

In Hebrews 1:8-9 we see the Father speak of the Son, of Jesus as being God.

We read, **“But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.’”**

As you read in the previous verses here Paul is showing us that Jesus is greater than all the angels. And thus, the emphasis is that God the Father says things to God the Son that is never said to angelic beings.

And I hope you are seeing how powerful this truly is in that it is a proof text that Jesus is God!

How can I be so certain?

Because God the Father is calling the Son – ***GOD!***

First of all, we see the Father speak of the Son as being eternal. **“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever . . .”**

That tells me that Jesus is eternal for His throne is forever and ever!

Secondly, we see the Father speak of the Son as being sovereign. “**. . . A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.**”

In other words, God the Son, Jesus manifests the attributes of God!

And keep in mind that angel’s minister before the throne of God, they do not sit on the throne of God. Thus, Jesus is superior to angels for He sits upon the throne because He is God!

And there is more. In Matthew 3:16-17 we read, “**When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’**”

Now this is in stark contrast to what the religious leaders were saying about Jesus. They wanted to kill Him because they believed He was blaspheming God because He, being a man, made Himself equal with God!

But notice what God the Father says of Jesus, “**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”

Why was God the Father pleased with God the Son?

Because He was doing the work that the Father called Him to do.

We also see this same idea from the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:5.

We are told, “**While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’**”

Again, as much as the Jewish religious leaders believed they were following what God was telling them to do, as sincere as they were, they were very wrong.

God the Father is approving of what God the Son is doing.

Now, when some read that Jesus is the Son of God, they come to the conclusion that Jesus is inferior to God the Father. That is not what that phrase means. Not at all. We are told,

Jesus is not God's Son in the sense of a human father and a son. God did not get married and have a son. God did not mate with Mary and, together with her, produce a son.

Jesus is God's Son in the sense that He is God made manifest in human form (John 1:1, 14).

Jesus is God's Son in that He was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:35 declares, "The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

During His trial before the Jewish leaders, the High Priest demanded of Jesus, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God" (Matthew 26:63).

"Yes, it is as you say,' Jesus replied. 'But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven'" (Matthew 26:64).

The Jewish leaders responded by accusing Jesus of blasphemy (Matthew 26:65-66).

Later, before Pontius Pilate, "The Jews insisted, 'We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God'" (John 19:7).

Why would His claiming to be the Son of God be considered blasphemy and be worthy of a death sentence?

The Jewish leaders understood exactly what Jesus meant by the phrase "Son of God." To be the Son of God is to be of the same nature as God. The Son of God is "of God."

The claim to be of the same nature as God - to in fact be God - was blasphemy to the Jewish leaders; therefore, they demanded Jesus' death, in keeping with Leviticus 24:15. Hebrews 1:3 expresses this very clearly, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being."

Another example can be found in John 17:12 where Judas is described as the "son of perdition." John 6:71 tells us that Judas was the son of Simon. What does John 17:12 mean by describing Judas as the "son of perdition"?

The word perdition means "destruction, ruin, waste." Judas was not the literal son of "ruin, destruction, and waste," but those things were the identity of Judas' life. Judas was a manifestation of perdition.

In this same way, Jesus is the Son of God. The Son of God is God. Jesus is God made manifest (John 1:1, 14).

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Exactly!

And let me expound on this just a little more, because we need to understand when Jesus is called the "**Son of God**" it is not diminishing who He is or making Him a lesser God, it is saying that He is equal with God, He is the exact representation of the Father and in saying that the Bible is telling us that He is God!

We are told,

What does the phrase, "Son of God" mean? Does it mean that God the Father literally had a son? The answer to that question is just plainly no.

The phrase “son of” doesn’t mean that someone literally has to be born from someone. In fact, around when the Greek New Testament was written, Caesar was referred to as the Son of God Himself.

What that phrase literally meant was, “the nature of.” Caesar was expressing the nature of. In fact, when you read the phrase “son of” within the Bible you find that that is true.

In Acts 4, Barnabas is called the “son of encouragement”.

In Mark 3, James and John are called the “sons of thunder.”

Judas is referred to as the “son of perdition.”

The nature of encouragement is seen in Barnabas.

The nature of thunder is seen in James and John.

The nature of hell is seen within Judas.

So when Jesus is referred to as the “son of,” it’s not in reference to him being born from the father. It’s actually a claim of his deity.

In fact, in Colossians 2:9 and Colossians 1:15, tell us that in Jesus the fullness of deity dwells.

The phrase “Son of God” refers to his nature as being God.

In John 3:18 it tells us that, “he is the only begotten Son of God.” This word “only begotten” is . . . claim against the Caesars of the day who would claim deity.

It’s saying that Jesus is the only one that possesses this nature in him. It’s the uniqueness of Christ.

The word only begotten, it means “monogenes.” It’s “mono”, the singularity from the same word we get mono today, the one. And “genes”, the word for where we get gene. It’s the only one of this kind or class.

Jesus is the only one that represents God in the flesh.

In fact, John 1:1-14 says that to us. “In the beginning was the Word,” in verse 1 and, “the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

In verse 14, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” God became flesh and dwelt among us. That’s why Jesus said, “he who has me, has seen the Father.” God is now dwelling in fleshly form.

The phrase “Son of God” does not mean that God the Father had a kid. What it means, is that Jesus Himself is God in the flesh.

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Again, I hope that is clear, because if you get that wrong you will begin to move away from all that Jesus is – *ALMIGHTY GOD!*

One more and then we will move on. In II Peter 1:16-18 we are told, “**For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**”

Peter says he, as well as others saw the power and majesty of Jesus! They were eyewitnesses of what transpired, what they saw in Jesus!

And Peter’s point goes back to the Mount of Transfiguration found in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:1-9 and Luke 9:28-36.

Thus, Peter, James and John were eyewitnesses of this event and of the resurrection of Jesus as well.

And you have to love Peter here at the Mount of Transfiguration. As Jesus, Moses and Elijah appear before them, Peter put Jesus on the same level with Moses and Elijah as he wanted to build three booths to dwell in and stay up there on the mountain.

But God the Father said, “**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**” You see, it was not about Moses or Elijah, it is always about Jesus!

It is not that Jesus is on the same level as the Law and the Prophets, which Moses and Elijah represented. He is even better because He is the beloved Son, and we are to listen to Him. You see, it is like comparing apples and oranges, they don't compare. *Jesus is God!*

And Peter is just recounting what transpired on the Mount of Transfiguration and what a memory it was. And he gives to us the testimony of God the Father, that He was pleased with Jesus and the work that He was doing because this is the work that God the Father sent Him to do!

Now, let's look at what the rest of John 5:37 tells us.

First of all, we are told in regard to God the Father that they “**have neither heard His voice at any time.**”

The question here is this. *Who is Jesus speaking of when He says that they have not heard God the Father's voice?*

Again, what is the context here, who has Jesus been speaking to?

These Jewish religious leaders who wanted to kill Jesus because He claimed to be the Son of God, which made Him equal with God the Father!

Another question may be this. *When could they have heard God the Father speak?*



Later on, at the Mount of Transfiguration we see God the Father speak and He testified that Jesus was His beloved Son and that He was well pleased with Him. But this is down the road, this did not take place yet.

The only other place, besides when God the Father spoke on Mount Sinai, which none of them were around, obviously, was when Jesus was baptized!

It is here that God the Father speaks. We are told in Mark 1:9-11, **“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”**

And, according to what Jesus is saying here in John, those Jewish religious leaders that were there at the baptism of Jesus did not hear what God the Father was saying. John the Baptist heard the Father speak, but they missed the testimony of God the Father speaking audibly of the divinity of His Son, of Jesus!

Now here’s the thing. God could have spoken audibly from heaven all the time to them if He wanted to do that, but He didn’t need to!

Why is that?

Because God had already spoken to them through His Word, the Old Testament Scriptures with the many prophecies regarding the coming Messiah, who was now present before them!

In fact, in the Old Testament, the Jewish Scriptures, there are over 300 prophecies related to the First Coming of Jesus and over 500 prophecies related to His Second Coming!

Now some may claim that they are vague, and anyone could fulfill them at any time in history. That is not true, and it shows that they have not read the Scriptures because God is very detailed when He speaks about the Messiah!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

I think you'll find this edifying. Now remember, David Williams is a mathematician. In this post he's responding to a Jewish user from Melbourne. His subject is: Jesus and Prophecy.

Here's what he says:

In a recent follow up to a posting by Leslie Brown I said I'd make a post detailing the probability of Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy by chance. Here it is!

The reason why prophecy is an indication of the divine authorship of the Scriptures, and hence a testimony to the trustworthiness of the Message of the Scriptures, is because of the minute probability of fulfillment.

Anyone can make predictions. Having those prophecies fulfilled is vastly different. In fact, the more statements made about the future, and the more the detail, then the less likely the precise fulfillment will be.

For example, what's the likelihood of a person predicting today the exact city in which the birth of a future leader would take place, well into the 21st century? This is indeed what the prophet Micah did 700 years before the Messiah.

Further, what is the likelihood of predicting the precise manner of death that a new, unknown religious leader would experience, a thousand years from now - a manner of death presently unknown, and to remain unknown for hundreds of years? Yet, this is what David did in 1000 B.C.

Again, what is the likelihood of predicting the specific date of the appearance of some great future leader, hundreds of years in advance? This is what Daniel did, 530 years before Christ.

If one were to conceive 50 specific prophecies about a person in the future, whom one would never meet, just what's the likelihood that this person will fulfill all 50 of the predictions?

How much less would this likelihood be if 25 of these predictions were about what other people would do to him, and were completely beyond his control?

For example, how does someone "arrange" to be born in a specific family?

How does one "arrange" to be born in a specified city, in which their parents don't actually live?

How does one "arrange" their own death - and specifically by crucifixion, with two others, and then "arrange" to have their executioners gamble for His clothing (John 16:19; Psalms 22:18)?

How does one "arrange" to be betrayed in advance?

How does one "arrange" to have the executioners carry out the regular practice of breaking the legs of the two victims on either side, but not their own?

Finally, how does one "arrange" to be God? How does one escape from a grave and appear to people after having been killed?

Indeed, it may be possible for someone to fake one or two of the Messianic prophecies, but it would be impossible for any one person to arrange and fulfill all of these prophecies. . . .

But, of course, there are many more than eight prophecies. In another calculation, Stoner used 48 prophecies . . . and arrived at the extremely conservative estimate that the probability of 48 prophecies being fulfilled in one person is the incredible number  $10^{157}$ .

In fact, if anybody can find someone, living or dead, other than Jesus, who can fulfill only half of the predictions concerning the Messiah given in the book “Messiah in Both Testaments” by Fred J. Meldau, the Christian Victory Publishing Company is ready to give a ONE thousand dollar reward!

As apologist Josh McDowell says, “There are a lot of men in the universities that could use some extra cash!” (Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict, California: Campus Crusade for Christ*, 175).

How large is the number one in  $10^{157}$ ?  $10^{157}$  contains 157 zeros!

Stoner gives an illustration of this number using electrons. Electrons are very small objects. They’re smaller than atoms. It would take 2.5 TIMES  $10^{15}$  of them, laid side by side, to make one inch.

Even if we counted 250 of these electrons each minute, and counted day and night, it would still take 19 million years just to count a line of electrons one inch long (Stoner, *op. cit.*, 109).

With this introduction, let’s go back to our chance of one in  $10^{157}$ . Let’s suppose that we’re taking this number of electrons, marking one, and thoroughly stirring it into the whole mass, then blindfolding a man and letting him try to find the right one.

What chance has he of finding the right one? What kind of a pile will this number of electrons make? They make an inconceivably large volume.

This is the result from considering a mere 48 prophecies. Obviously, the probability that 456 prophecies would be fulfilled in one man by chance is vastly smaller.

According to Emile Borel, once one goes past one chance in  $10^{50}$ , the probabilities are so small that it is impossible to think that they will ever occur (Ankerberg et. al., *op. cit.*, 21).

As Stoner concludes, ‘Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact, proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world (Stoner, op. cit., 112).’

God so thoroughly vindicated Jesus Christ that even mathematicians and statisticians, who were without faith, had to acknowledge that it is scientifically impossible to deny that Jesus is the Christ. . . .

- <https://bit.ly/3oXWEAF>

But these Jewish religious leaders had made up their mind, their hearts were so hard and cold to the things of God that they were blind to what God was showing them through His Word and they rejected that Jesus is the Messiah and they refused to come to Him!

Now we can’t believe that they would be so hard-hearted, but any person who rejects the facts of Scripture, is doing the same thing and thus, we need to be careful not to harden our hearts to the things of God!

In John 5:39-40 we are told what Jesus saw in these Jewish religious leaders as He said, **“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”**

It is not that they couldn’t come to Jesus, they just refused to come to Him, they were not willing to come to Him even though the Scriptures testified that Jesus is the One!

So God was speaking to these Jewish religious leaders through His Word and through His Son who is called the Word! But they refused to listen and believe!

Not only did Jesus say that they have not heard what God the Father was saying, but also, they have not **“seen His form.”**

Remember what we are told in John 4:24, that God is Spirit and has no physical form. Thus, we see God manifested to us through His Son who became flesh in the Incarnation!

Paul put it like this in Colossians 1:15, **“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”**

Paul tells us that Jesus is **“the image of the invisible God”** and the word **“image”** in the Greek is EIKON, (i-kone’) and it speaks of a statue or representation.

In other words, it is as we are told in John 14:8-9, **“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”?’”**

Thus, the invisible God became visible to us in Jesus Christ when He became flesh and blood, when He dwelt among us, **“. . . the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

John 1:14. Clearly Paul’s point is that Jesus is God!

Remember what we were told in John 1:18, **“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”**

If you want to know what God the Father is like, then look to Jesus, look to God the Son for He is an exact representation of God the Father!

In other words, God the Father ***“stamped”*** His image on human flesh in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ and thus, we can see what God the Father is like, as I have said, we just need to look at Jesus!

But again, the Jewish religious leaders refused, and they had a distorted picture of God!

***THE EVIDENCE*** is overwhelming that Jesus is Almighty God for God the Father has testified of this fact!

So the Jewish religious leaders have ***THE EVIDENCE***, and notice what they do with the evidence – ***THE REJECTION!***

### VERSE 38

Who is Jesus speaking to?

Like I said before, He is speaking to the Jewish religious leaders who refused to hear what God the Father was saying about God the Son, they rejected His Word and thus, they rejected Him!

And God was only going to speak to them through Jesus now, but they rejected Him and thus, they were not hearing from God.

In fact, they had come to the point where Jesus was not going to speak to them openly anymore because they did not want to hear Him, so He spoke to them in parables!

We see this spoken of in Matthew 13:10-11 where we are told, “**And the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’ He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’**”

The disciples of Jesus are wondering why He is now speaking in Parables instead of just speaking plainly and He tells them.

Keep in mind that this is not being done to keep something from those who love Him, but it is done to hide the things of God from those who reject Him. They did not want anything to do with Jesus and thus, these things they won’t understand.

And Jesus is specifically speaking of the Jewish religious leaders who should have known better, they should have recognized Jesus as the Messiah, they had the information, but they refused to see. And thus, they lost out in the end.

I like the way that H. C. Woodring put this, it is a good perspective. He wrote, ***“Because they did not have the love of the truth, they would not get the light of the truth.”***

The religious leaders rejected the truth, like many do today. And even though they may hear with their ears, they don't understand what it is all about. The truth is there for all who will receive it, but if you reject it, look out, the light will go out!

God is longsuffering, He is patient, He is gracious and merciful but when one's heart becomes so hard, so rebellious, so obstinate to God, He will stop speaking to them, He will go silent, and, as I have said, the light will go out!

In John 1:9 remember what we were told, **“That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”**

But, as I have said, there can come a point in the life of every unbeliever who continually rejects the light of God's truth, when the light will go out, the Holy Spirit will stop speaking to their hearts about Jesus, about being saved.

Let me illustrate that like this. We are told,

***During World War II, an American naval force in the North Atlantic was engaged in heavy battle with enemy ships and submarines on an exceptionally dark night.***

***Six planes took off from the carrier to search out those targets, but while they were in the air a total blackout was ordered for the carrier in order to protect it from attack.***



*Without lights on the carrier's deck the six planes could not possibly land. They made a radio request for the lights to be turned on just long enough for them to come in - but because the entire carrier, with its several thousand men, would have been put in jeopardy, no lights were permitted.*

*When the six planes ran out of fuel, they had to ditch in the freezing water and all crew members perished into eternity.*

- Source Unknown

What a tragic story that is and what is even more tragic is when a person hardens their heart so much that God turns off His light to them and they are gone forever!

Let me give you this example with these Jewish religious leaders and what happened to some of them as they passed that point of no return, as they blasphemed the Holy Spirit so much, that the light of salvation went out for them!

In Matthew 12:31 we are told, **“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.”**

Did you see that? Every sin will be forgiven except for one! Which one? Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit!

What in the world is this blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

This is so important because so many Christians feel that they have done this but let me explain to you what this sin is all about and why it can't be forgiven.

Let's look at the work of the Holy Spirit.

In John 15:26 we are told, **“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”**

The Holy Spirit’s main ministry is to testify of Jesus, He is to bring people to Jesus!

That means blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is speaking of rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit and that work is to draw men to Jesus. That means if you reject Jesus, you are committing blasphemy of the Holy Spirit because you are rejecting the work that He has come to do, draw you to Jesus and there is salvation only found in Him!

When you say ***“No”*** to Jesus you are lost in your sins. Peter put it like this in Acts 4:12, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

That means when that testimony of Jesus is fully and finally rejected, one has truly blasphemed the Holy Spirit and essentially called Him a liar in respect to His testimony about Jesus.

The religious leaders were close to this. You see, these religious leaders saw the testimony of John the Baptist, the Testimony of the miracles, the testimony of God the Father, the testimony of the Word of God, and they were now rejecting it and saying it was coming from the devil, and they were very close if not committing blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, in John 12:39 we are told of the Jewish religious leaders, **“Therefore they could not believe . . .”**

Why could they not believe?

The reason is simple; they had rejected the truth that was before them. They had passed the point of no return. They could no longer be saved.

Think about an airplane. It has so much fuel in it. As it is flying across the sky there is a point where it can't go back because it won't have enough fuel, it must continue on to its destination.

That is the idea here, they have passed that point of no return and they could not go back, they could not be saved!

So there is only one sin that will keep you out of heaven, which should bring great comfort to every person on this planet! And that sin is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit or rejecting the work that the Spirit of God is doing, drawing you to Jesus! If you reject Jesus, you have committed blasphemy of the Holy Spirit! And at this point, here in John, they were getting closer and closer to that reality!

In II Corinthians 6:1-2 we are told, **“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”**

Let me say this. It wasn't that God wasn't speaking to these Jewish religious leaders, they had just hardened their hearts to what God was saying, they closed their ears to what He was telling them, and many do that today.

I don't know where you are at this morning, those that are here at church or listening on the radio or the Internet, but if you don't know Jesus, God the Father is speaking to you through His Spirit and testifying that Jesus is Almighty God who came to save you from your sins if you would only repent and receive Him into your life as Lord and Savior!

Today is the day of salvation, don't pass it up!

For these Jewish religious leaders, we see – ***THE REJECTION!*** They refused the witness of John the Baptist, of the miracles that Jesus did, of the witness of God the Father and they are moving farther and farther away from God.

Next time we will look at the – ***TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES!***

Let me close with this. The third witness of who Jesus is comes from God the Father!

May we listen and obey!