

added, "For as the Father raised the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will" (v. 21). But the Old Testament clearly teaches that only God is the giver of life (1 Sam. 2:6; Deut. 32:39) and the one to raise the dead (Ps. 2:7) and the only judge (Joel 3:12; Deut. 32:35). Jesus boldly assumed for himself powers that only God has.

Jesus also claimed that he should be honored as God. He said that all men should, "Honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the father." The Jews listening knew that no one should claim to be equal with God in this way and again they reached for stones (John 5:18).

Even the Qur'an recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah (5:14, 75). But the Old Testament teaches that the coming Messiah would be God himself. So when Jesus claimed to be that Messiah, he was also claiming to be God. For example, the prophet Isaiah (9:6) calls the Messiah, "Mighty God." The psalmist wrote of the Messiah, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever" (Ps. 45:6; cf. Heb. 1:8). Psalm 110:1 records a conversation between the Father and the Son: "Jehovah said to my Lord (*Adoni*), sit thou at my right hand." Jesus applied this passage to himself in Matthew 22:43-44. In the great messianic prophecy of Daniel 7, the Son of Man is called the "ancient of days" (v. 22), a phrase used twice in the same passage of God the Father (vv. 9, 13). Jesus also said he was the Messiah at his trial before the high priest. When asked, "Are you the Christ [Greek for Messiah], the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus responded, "I am; and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." At this, the high priest tore his robe and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy!" (Mark 14:61-64). There was no doubt that in claiming to be Messiah (see also Luke 24:27; Matt. 26:54), Jesus also claimed to be God.

The Old Testament forbids worshiping anyone other than God (Exod. 20:1-4; Deut. 5:6-9). The New Testament agrees, showing that men refused worship (Acts 14:15) as did angels (Rev. 22:8-9). But Jesus accepted worship on numerous occasions, showing his claim to be God. A healed leper worshiped him (Matt. 8:2), and a ruler knelt before him with a request (Matt. 9:18). After he stilled the storm, "those in the boat worshiped Him saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God'" (Matt. 14:33). A group of Canaanite women (Matt. 15:25), the mother of James and John (Matt. 20:20), the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5:6), all worshiped Jesus without one word of rebuke. But Christ also elicited worship in some cases, as when Thomas saw the risen Christ and cried out, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). This could only be done by a person who seriously considered himself to be God.

Jesus also put his words on a par with God's. "You have heard that it was said to men of old . . . But I say unto you" (Matt. 5:21-22) is repeated