

John 19:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

Analysis

We have a law (ἡμεῖς νόμον ἔχομεν/hēmeis nomon echomen)—the Jews shift from political charges (treason against Caesar) to theological ones. They reference Leviticus 24:16, which prescribed death for blasphemy. But their application is tragically inverted: the Law they claimed to uphold condemned them for rejecting the very One it testified about (John 5:39).

He made himself the Son of God (υἱὸν θεοῦ ἑαυτὸν ἐποίησεν/huion theou heauton epoiēsen) accurately captures Jesus's claim, yet they call it self-exaltation rather than self-revelation. The verb epoiēsen (made) suggests fabrication, manufacturing a false identity. They could not conceive that God might actually become man—the very stumbling block Paul later identified (1 Corinthians 1:23). The irony cuts deep: the true Son of God stands condemned for blasphemy by those who blaspheme by rejecting Him.

Historical Context

Leviticus 24:16 stated, 'He that blasphemeth the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death.' Jewish law required stoning, not crucifixion. By demanding Roman crucifixion, the religious leaders unknowingly fulfilled prophecy (Deuteronomy 21:23—'cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'), making visible the curse Christ bore for us (Galatians 3:13).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can religious knowledge become the very weapon used to resist God's truth?
2. What is the difference between Jesus 'making himself' the Son of God versus being the Son of God incarnate?
3. When do appeals to 'our tradition' or 'our doctrine' actually oppose Scripture rather than uphold it?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθησαν αὐτῷ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι Ἡμεῖς νόμον ἔχομεν·
answered **him** ^{G3588} **The Jews** **We** **a law** **have**
G611 G846 G2453 G2249 G3551 G2192

καὶ κατὰ τὸν νόμον ἡμῶν ὀφείλει ἀποθανεῖν ὅτι
and **by** ^{G3588} **a law** **our** **he ought** **to die** **because**
G2532 G2596 G3551 G2257 G3784 G599 G3754

ἑαυτὸν υἱὸν θεοῦ ἐποίησεν
himself **the Son** **of God** **he made**
G1438 G5207 G2316 G4160

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 24:16 (Parallel theme): And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

John 5:18 (References God): Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Romans 1:4 (References God): And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Mark 15:39 (References God): And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Deuteronomy 18:20 (Word): But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

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