

John 5:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

Analysis

'For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.' Raising the dead is God's exclusive prerogative (Deuteronomy 32:39). Jesus claims this same power—giving life to whomever He chooses. The 'whom he will' emphasizes sovereign choice. This isn't mere prophetic delegation (Elijah, Elisha raising dead) but divine prerogative exercised sovereignly. The Son gives life by His own authority.

Historical Context

This claim would be fulfilled in raising Lazarus (John 11), the widow's son (Luke 7), and Jairus's daughter (Mark 5). Ultimately, it points to the general resurrection at the last day (verses 28-29). Jesus claims power over life and death—the ultimate divine prerogative.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does raising the dead demonstrate divine authority?

2. What does 'whom he will' teach about the Son's sovereign freedom in giving life?

Interlinear Text

ὅσπερ γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ ἐγείρει τοὺς νεκροὺς καὶ
as For the Father raiseth up the dead and
G5618 G1063 G3962 G1453 G3588 G3498 G2532

ζωοποιεῖ οὕτως καὶ ὁ νιὸς οὓς θέλει ζωοποιεῖ
quickeneth so and the Son whom he will quickeneth
G2227 G3779 G2532 G3588 G5207 G3739 G2309 G2227

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:11 (Resurrection): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Acts 26:8 (Resurrection): Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

John 11:25 (Resurrection): Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 17:2 (Parallel theme): As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

1 Kings 17:21 (Parallel theme): And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

2 Kings 5:7 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make

alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

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