

Luke 22:70

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.

Analysis

Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am. The Sanhedrin grasps Jesus' claim: eipan de pantes, sy oun ei ho huios tou theou (εἶπαν δὲ πάντες, σὺ οὖν εἶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ, 'then they all said, then you are the Son of God?'). The particle oun (οὖν, 'therefore, then') connects His claim to sit at God's right hand with divine sonship. Ho huios tou theou (ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ, 'the Son of God') means far more than special relationship—it claims divine nature, equality with God. Jews understood this (John 5:18, 10:33). Jesus' response hymeis legete hoti egō eimi (ὁμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι, 'you say that I am') is affirmation, not evasion.

The phrase egō eimi (ἐγὼ εἰμι, 'I am') echoes God's self-identification to Moses (Exodus 3:14, 'I AM THAT I AM'). Jesus affirms their statement—'You yourselves say it: I AM.' This is confession of deity. The Sanhedrin wanted self-incriminating testimony; they received it. Jesus could have equivocated or remained silent. Instead, He boldly affirms His divine sonship, knowing it means death. Truth matters more than life. He won't deny His identity to preserve His body—the opposite of Peter, who denied Christ to save himself.

Historical Context

The charge 'Son of God' was blasphemy in Jewish law if claimed by mere man. The penalty was stoning (Leviticus 24:16). However, the Sanhedrin lacked authority to execute under Roman rule (John 18:31), requiring cooperation from Pilate. They

therefore framed religious charge (blasphemy) as political charge (claiming kingship, sedition—Luke 23:2). Jesus' confession sealed His fate legally but fulfilled prophecy theologically. The 'I AM' statements throughout John's Gospel (6:35, 8:12, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1) all assert deity, culminating in this trial confession.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus clearly affirm His divine sonship rather than remain silent or equivocate?
2. What does Jesus' 'I AM' statement reveal about His self-understanding and mission?
3. How does Jesus' confession of truth unto death contrast with Peter's denial to preserve life?

Interlinear Text

εἶπον	δὲ	πάντες	Σὺ	οὖν	εἰ	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ὁ
he said	And	they all	thou	then	Art	G3588	the Son	G3588	of God	G3588
G2036	G1161	G3956	G4771	G3767	G1488		G5207		G2316	
δὲ	πρὸς	αὐτοὺς	ἔφη	ὑμεῖς	λέγετε	ὅτι	ἐγώ	εἰμι		
And	unto	them	said	Ye	say	that	I	am		
G1161	G4314	G846	G5346	G5210	G3004	G3754	G1473	G1510		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 23:3 (Parallel theme): And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it.

Mark 15:2 (Parallel theme): And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.

Matthew 27:11 (Parallel theme): And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

Matthew 26:64 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org