

Mark 14:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

Analysis

At Jesus' trial, 'the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' (ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς ἐπηρώτα αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Σὺ εἰ ὁ Χριστός, ὁ νιὸς τοῦ εὐλογητοῦ;). This is the climactic question of Jesus' trial. The high priest asked directly: 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' (euphemism for God, avoiding the divine name). Jesus had remained silent through false accusations (v. 60-61a). But to this direct question about His identity, He answered clearly (v. 62). The question combined two titles: 'Christ' (Messiah, anointed king) and 'Son of the Blessed/God' (divine sonship). Jewish leaders understood these claims—Messiah alone wasn't blasphemy, but claiming divine sonship was (v. 63-64). Jesus' answer would determine His fate.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin trial occurred at night (illegal under Jewish law requiring capital cases be heard during daytime). Caiaphas, high priest AD 18-36, led the proceedings. The question about being 'Christ, Son of the Blessed' cut to the heart—was Jesus the promised Messiah with divine status? Jewish messianic expectation didn't generally include divine sonship, though some texts (Psalm 2:7; Daniel 7:13-14) hinted at it. The charge of blasphemy (v. 64) indicates they understood Jesus' claim to deity. Earlier, Jesus' claims to forgive sins and authority over Sabbath provoked blasphemy accusations (Mark 2:7; John 5:18; 10:33). His clear affirmative answer (v. 62) provided grounds for condemnation. This trial

fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 53:7-8; Daniel 9:26) and demonstrated that Jesus died for claiming to be God—the central Christian confession.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus remain silent through false accusations but answer directly when asked about His identity as Christ and Son of God?
2. What does the high priest's question combining 'Christ' and 'Son of the Blessed' reveal about the theological stakes of Jesus' trial?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	ἐστιώπα	καὶ	οὐδέν	ἀπεκρίνατο	πάλιν	ο
G3588	But	he held his peace	and	nothing	answered	Again	G3588
G1161		G4623	G2532	G3762	G611	G3825	

ἀρχιερεὺς	ἐπηρώτα	αὐτῷ	καὶ	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Σὺ	εἰ	ο
the high priest	asked	him	and	said	him	thou	Art	G3588
G749	G1905	G846	G2532	G3004	G846	G4771	G1488	

Χριστὸς	ο	υἱὸς	τοῦ	εὐλογητοῦ				
the Christ	G3588	the Son	G3588	of the Blessed				
G5547		G5207		G2128				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:7 (Parallel theme): He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

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 16:16 (References Christ): And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 19:7 (Parallel theme): The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

1 Peter 2:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:
