

## The Authority of the Creator-God (8:23-27)

8:23 *When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.* 8:24 *And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.* 8:25 *And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!”* 8:26 *He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.* 8:27 *The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”*

### The Savior-God

- “Save us, Lord” (8:25) is an echo from Psalm 106:47, where the Psalmist pleads with the covenant-God for salvation.<sup>1</sup>

### The God of the Psalms

- READ Psalm 65:5,7.<sup>2</sup> See also Psalm 89:8-9; 107:23-32.

### Creation Is Christian

- The New Testament reveals to us the fact that the eternal Son of God was the divine mediator of Creation:  
READ John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6;  
Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Save us” in the Hebrew of Psalm 106:47 is הוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ, from which we get the word “hosanna.”

<sup>2</sup> Notice the parallel between “the roaring” of the stormy sea and “the tumult of the peoples.” The chaos of the stormy sea is often used as an image of the unbelieving peoples of the world throughout the Bible (Isaiah 17:12-13; Revelation 17:15).

<sup>3</sup> John 1:1-3, in fact, is the Holy Spirit’s interpretation of the first verses of Genesis: “In the beginning **God** [the **Father**] created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit** of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God **said** [the Word, or **Son**]...” (Genesis 1:1-3).

- Even now, the Son sustains Creation: “...[the] Son...upholds all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3).
- Since Christ is the mediator, sustainer, and point of all Creation, we can say that Creation bears the name of Christ: Creation is Christian.

### Jesus Rules the Storm

- As the divine Creator-Sustainer-God, all of Creation is under the Son’s control.
- Does this mean if we have enough faith Jesus will calm all our personal storms? No. He let Paul shipwreck (Acts 27:1-44; 2 Corinthians 11:25)!
- This passage is about Jesus’ authority, not our safety or comfort. If we are going to make application, maybe it should be this way:
  1. ...if Jesus has authority over Creation, He certainly should have authority over your life.
  2. ...if there are storms in your life, trust Jesus is in control even if the boat wrecks.
  3. ...if He does answer your fearful prayer and calms the storm, give Him thanks and praise Him for His goodness and sovereignty over all.

## The Authority of the Victorious Conqueror (8:28-34)

8:28 *When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.* 8:29 *And they cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”* 8:30 *Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them.* 8:31 *The demons began to entreat Him, saying, “If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.”* 8:32 *And He said to them, “Go!” And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into*

*the sea and perished in the waters. 8:33The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. 8:34And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region.*

### Son of God

- The only other time prior to this in the Gospel of Matthew that the title “*Son of God*” occurs is in the words of the devil (4:3,6).
- After this, the title “*Son of God*” will be used in His trial (26:63) and crucifixion (27:40,43,54). See 1 John 3:8b.
- In this Gospel, the title seems reserved for Jesus’ conflicts with spiritual darkness.

### They Were So Extremely Violent

- Both the evil innately present in the fallen human’s heart and the evil that is the play of the demonic are rooted in the “*domain of darkness*” (Colossians 1:13).
- God uses civil government to restrain evil in this age (Romans 13:1-7), but ultimate victory over evil only comes through rebirth of the sinner through faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- There is also a point at which God no longer restrains, but gives sinners over to their sin (Romans 1:24,26,28).

### Jesus and the World System

- Jesus and the economic system of the world don’t always mix well. Jesus may have delivered these two men, but the economic price for “*the herdsmen*” was so great that “*the whole city*” asked Jesus to leave.
- In Acts 19:23-41, revival in Ephesus hurt the economy (the idol-making guild) so that there was a city-wide disturbance. See also Acts 16:16-21.
- The conflict between the Lamb and the dragon manifests in the economic system of the beast (Revelation 13:17; see also 2:9) and Babylon (Revelation 18:1-24).

## The Authority of the Judge (9:1-8)

*9:1Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over the sea and came to His own city. 9:2And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.” 9:3And some of the scribes said to themselves, “This fellow blasphemes.” 9:4And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? 9:5Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’? 9:6But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” 9:7And he got up and went home. 9:8But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.*

### Blasphemy

- Jesus will be accused of blasphemy at His trial (26:65) for claiming Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13 were about Him.
- Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4), that is, a violation of God’s Law.
- Jesus’ skeptics said God alone can forgive sins (Mark 2:7//Luke 5:21). This is only wrong because they failed to see that Jesus was divine. The O.T. tells us that forgiveness of sin is God’s right (Psalm 130:4; Isaiah 43:25; Daniel 9:9; Micah 7:18).

### The Power of the Word

- In all three of these accounts, Jesus manifests His authority through His Word (8:26,32; 9:6). Are you in submission to the authority of the Word of God?

### Jesus’ Authority Brings Glory to God

- “...so that you may know” (9:6) tells us that the healing of the paralytic was only to reveal Jesus’ divine authority to forgive sins.
- We were created to proclaim God’s glory. The recognized divine authority of Jesus brings God glory: READ Philippians 2:9-11.