

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Scripture Cannot Be Broken

(Jerry Fite)

Jewish leaders were taking up stones to put Jesus to death. In their ears they heard blasphemy when Jesus said, *“I and the Father or one”* (John 10:30-31). A mere man equating himself with God! Such is blasphemous.

Jesus responded to the charge by referencing Scripture. *“Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, ye are gods?’ If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be broken), say ye of him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘Thou blasphemest’; because I said, ‘I am the Son of god’”* (John 10:34-36)? Jesus referred to Psalm 82:6 which is a rebuke of judges judging unrighteously. Because they were God’s representatives, charged to judge according to His dictates, they were called “gods”.

What does the Psalm 82 reference have to do with Jesus, His claim of being one with the Father, and the charge of blasphemy? Why does Jesus add parenthetically that scripture cannot be broken? Some say the scripture reference has nothing to do

with Jesus’ claim of deity, but was merely a tactic of Jesus to momentarily divert their attention to scripture instead of casting stones.

A closer examination reveals a great lesson on the authority of scripture. Jesus points to the fact that scripture cannot be “broken” or “loosed” from its binding force. Cannot be broken does not mean it is impossible for man to break or disobey God’s commandments. This has been done many times (cf. Matthew 5:19). But it cannot be “loosed” as binding on us just because we have momentarily “loosed” it in our disobedience. We stand before God guilty of sin. It is still binding upon us. It cannot be broken in this sense.

That which “is written”-“scripture” is binding. The authority of God lies behind it, and the message conveyed by the very words God has used in the writing cannot be broken (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16) It is binding. It cannot be loosed.

Jesus refers to Psalm 82 to establish the authority of God.

Notice the passage begins with, *“I said”*. God said the ones offering His judgments are “gods”. Surely no one would accuse God of blasphemy. He said it, and it is written the way He said it. Scripture cannot be broken.

Jesus is establishing the authority of the Father behind His claim of Deity. Jesus’ miraculous works testify the Father is working with Him (cf. John 10:32). *“If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do them, though ye believe not me, believe the works that ye may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father”* (John 10:37-38)

If the Father used a term denoting His majesty – “*elohim*” – “gods” to characterize his human judicial representatives, is He guilty of blasphemy? God’s words are contained in Psalm 82:6. The authoritative Father binds it. We cannot “loose” it. Since scripture cannot be broken, we know we will stand before Jesus to give answer for all our deeds, and we know the faithful will inherit eternal life (2 Cor. 5:10, Matt. 19:29).