

**Troubling Bethesda's Still Waters: John 5:1-29**  
John H. Niemelä at Crosspoint Community Church,  
Centennial, CO, on July 5, 2016

**Introduction**

**Review**

Purpose statement: John 20:30-31  
8 signs that you may believe and  
that you may have life by believing.  
*Pisteuō* (believe) 100x  
7 + 1 signs

**Jesus returned to Jerusalem for the feast (of Pentecost) [5:1]**

**This was at the Pool of Bethesda, where many invalids were lying [5:2–3a]**

**The first person in the pool (after an angel stirred the water) was healed [5:3b-4]**

I accept the Majority Text reading, which includes these verses

Verse 7 seconds the information about the healing role of angels here

The role of angels during the 400 years in which Israel had no prophets

**Jesus asked a lame man if he wanted to get well (5:5-6)**

**The man said that someone always got into the stirred-up water first (5:7)**

**Jesus told him to stand, PICK UP HIS BEDROLL, and to walk; and he did (5:8-9)**

**Officials scolded his sabbath-breaking; he said his healer said to pick it up and walk (5:10f)**

**They asked who healed him, but he did not know (5:12-13)**

**Jesus warned the healed man against a worse sin-incurred discipline (5:14)**

**The man told the officials that Jesus was his healer (5:15)**

Why did he identify Jesus to the officials?

1. He was angry at Jesus because of verse 14.

2. Perhaps, but I suspect that \_\_\_\_\_

**Judean officials persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him as a sabbath-breaker (5:16)**

**Jesus responded that He is exempt from the sabbath as His Father is exempt (5:17)**

**Judean officials were even more determined to kill Jesus for blasphemy (5:18)**

The Judeans sought:

1. to \_\_\_\_\_ Him

2. to \_\_\_\_\_ Him

Jesus sought:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

2. to \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_.

**Response: The Son obeys what the Father shows Him; doing even greater things (5:19-20)**

**Like the Father, the Son resurrects and grants [everlasting] life to whom He wishes (5:21)**

**The Father has delegated all judgment to the Son, so all would honor Him as they should honor the Father (5:22-23)**

5:24-25

Believers have \_\_\_\_\_ right now;

Believers will not come into [the G.W.T.] \_\_\_\_\_;

Believers \_\_\_\_\_.

Believing the Father is tantamount to believing the Son, because the Son speaks the Father's words.<sup>1</sup>

Verse 25 reiterates verse 24.

Interpretation of *an hour is coming and is now here*. [This is not synonymous with *an hour is coming* (5:28)]

**The Son has life in Himself [to give] just as the Father has life in Himself [to give] (5:26)**

**[Besides giving the Son the right to give life] the Father has given Him the right to judge (5:27)**

<sup>1</sup> *Believe* takes two kinds of objects: personal and/or content. One or both types of objects may be implicit. In the chart content is bold; person is underlined. Brackets add what is implicit. The bottom line is that one always believes a person for **content** that he/she has communicated. In John 5:24 the Father speaks the same content about the Son that the Son would speak.

	<b>Implicit Person</b>	<b>Explicit Person</b>
<b>Implicit Content</b>	that all might believe [ <u>John</u> ] [ <b>that...</b> ] (1:7)	...believes in <u>Me</u> [ <b>for eternal life</b> ] (11:25)
<b>Explicit Content</b>	We have come to believe [ <u>You</u> ] <b>that...</b> (6:69)	Believe <u>Me</u> <b>that the hour is coming</b> (4:21)

**5:28-29 discuss the great white throne, which occurs right after the 1000-year Millennium**

We must ask: "Which people are discussed in verses 28 and 29."

The clue comes from chronology:

- Revelation 20:4b-6a indicates that the second resurrection occurs after the Millennium. Only unbelievers are resurrected in the second resurrection.
- All believers will have been resurrected prior to the second resurrection:  
And they [resurrected tribulation martyrs] lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (But the rest of the dead [unbelievers] did not live again until the thousand years were finished.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has a part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power...  
[Revelation 20:4b-6a]

First resurrection:

Jesus was resurrected

April 5, AD 33

Church Age believers are resurrected at the \_\_\_\_\_

Tribulation saints are resurrected at the \_\_\_\_\_

\*OT saints will be resurrected by the \_\_\_\_\_

[\*Bible does not explicitly state when OT saints will be raised]

Second resurrection:

Unbelievers will be resurrected after the \_\_\_\_\_

Question: Who is it that will be in the graves at the time of John 5:28-29?

Only \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 29a is a hypothetical description of participants (no one deserves life)

Verse 29b is an actual description of the participants

**CONCLUSION**