

John 12:34-41

John 12:34 – *“The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?”*

- A. The Old Testament shows that Christ is everlasting (**Isaiah 9:6-7**).
 - 1. The Psalms declared that Jesus is everlasting (**Psalms 45:6-7**; cf. **Hebrews 1:1-9**).
 - 2. The Old Testament Scriptures were correct, as was their understanding of those Scriptures. Jesus is eternal (**Micah 5:2-3**; cf. **Matthew 2:4-6**, **John 1:1-5**, **John 8:56-59**, and **Hebrews 13:8**).
 - 3. What is missed in their understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures, is that Jesus’ death does not nullify the fact that He is eternal in being (**Colossians 1:12-22**, **Hebrews 7:14-16**, **Hebrews 7:22-25**, **Revelation 1:5-8**, and **Revelation 1:13-18**).
 - 4. The statement “lifted up” was in reference to Jesus being put to death (**John 12:32-33**).
- B. “Who is this Son of man” (cf. **Matthew 16:13**)?
 - 1. Jesus is “the Son of man”:
 - a. **Matthew 12:40** and **Mark 9:31**; cf. **Matthew 16:21**.
 - b. **Matthew 20:28**; cf. **I Peter 1:18-19**.
 - c. **Mark 8:38**; cf. **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**.
 - d. **Luke 21:36**; cf. **II Corinthians 5:10**.
 - e. **John 5:25-27**; cf. **Matthew 8:29**.
 - f. **Acts 7:55-56**; cf. **Hebrews 12:2**.
 - 2. However, not all Scriptures containing the phrase “son of man” apply to Jesus (**Numbers 23:19**, **Job 25:6**, **Psalms 8:4**, **Psalms 144:3**, **Isaiah 51:12**, **Ezekiel 2:1-8**, etc.).

John 12:35-36 – *“(35) Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. (36) While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.”*

- A. Jesus is the light of the world (**Matthew 4:12-16**, **John 8:12**, **John 12:46**, and **Acts 26:23**).
 - 1. He is warning them that He won’t be around for long (**John 7:33** and **John 16:16**).
 - 2. They needed to take advantage of their time with Christ (i.e. **Luke 10:38-42**).
 - 3. Those who walk in darkness are lost (**Proverbs 4:19**, **John 11:9-10**, and **I John 2:8-11**).
- B. It was time to become children of light (**Ephesians 5:1-11** and **I John 1:3-7**).

1. Christians are called (by the Gospel – **II Thessalonians 2:14**) out of darkness into the light (**Colossians 1:12-13** and **I Peter 2:9**).
2. Thus, we must continually choose not to be in darkness (**Acts 26:18-20**, **Romans 13:12**, and **I Thessalonians 5:5**).
3. We are now lights in this world (**Matthew 5:14-16** and **Philippians 2:14-16**).

John 12:37-41 – *“(37) But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: (38) That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? (39) Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, (40) He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. (41) These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.”*

A. Jesus did many miracles to confirm who He was (**Acts 2:22**; cf. **Mark 16:15-20** and **Hebrews 2:1-4**).

1. They should have believed because of the works (**Matthew 11:20-24** and **John 10:37-38**).
2. If someone is going to reject the truth, no miracle will convince that person otherwise (**Psalms 78:12-32** and **Luke 16:31**; cf. **Psalms 19:7** and **Romans 1:16**).

B. The words of Isaiah fit these Jews as those same words have fit others as well (**Isaiah 6:9-10**; cf. **Matthew 13:10-17**, **Acts 28:24-28**, and **Romans 10:14-17**).

1. Spiritual blindness and hardened hearts prevent people from seeing the truth clearly (**Mark 6:52**, **Mark 16:14**, and **Acts 7:51-60**; cf. **Isaiah 59:8-10**).
2. Isaiah said these things when he saw the glory of the Lord (**Isaiah 6:1-5**).