THE BOOKFOLIO

When Heaven Speaks, Heaven Agrees

SAGA 4 OF 7 — THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN

JOHN 12:28

All Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red.

This excerpt: the Saga Book (student) pages for Saga 4, followed by the Teacher's Master notes for Saga 4.

The Voice from Heaven

JOHN 12:28-30, 49; JOHN 17:1 • KING JAMES VERSION

The Scene, Told Plainly

At the river, the Father spoke about His Son. On the mountain, the Father spoke again. Now the Son Himself lifts up a prayer — and Heaven answers Him out loud.

The hour is getting close. Jesus knows the cross is near, and He does not pray to get out of it. He prays for one thing: that His Father's name would be glorified. In plain words, He prays: Father, glorify thy name.

And the Father answers. A voice came from heaven — a real voice, heard by people standing right there — and the Father said: *I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*

Listen to that answer. *Both.* The Father has already glorified His name — through all that Jesus has said and done in His life on earth. And He will glorify it again — through what Jesus is about to do on the cross, and in rising again, and in going back up to glory. Past and future, in one answer. Hold on to that word *both* — your teacher has the full teaching on it.

But now watch the people. They all heard the sound. They did not all hear it the same way. Some of them said it thundered — just weather, just noise. Others said an angel had spoken to Him — closer, but still not the truth. Heaven had spoken, and some of them missed who was speaking.

Then Jesus explained why the voice came. It did not come because Jesus needed it. Jesus already knew His Father.

The voice came for the people standing by — for your sakes — so they could hear the Father answer the Son, and know.

And this is the way Jesus always spoke. Later in this same chapter, He tells us plain: He has not spoken of Himself. The Father who sent Him gave Him a commandment — what He should say, and what He should speak. So when you hear Jesus, you are hearing what the Father gave Him to say. The Son does not make up His own message apart from the Father.

And later still, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and prayed the same thing from the other side: Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee. The Father glorifies the Son. The Son glorifies the Father. Back and forth, like a perfect answer.

Stop and see it plain. The Son prays. The Father answers out loud. And they glorify one another. When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees.

The Scripture — Word for Word

"Father, glorify thy name." Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, *"I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."* — JOHN 12:28

"The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him." — JOHN 12:29

Jesus answered and said, "This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes." — JOHN 12:30

"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." — JOHN 12:49

> These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:" — JOHN 17:1

The Father's spoken words in this saga are in John 12:28. The words of Jesus are printed in red. Read them slowly, out loud if you can. The voice came so people would hear it.

Who Is Speaking

The Father — He speaks from heaven in this saga, answering His Son out loud: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

The Son — He prays, "Father, glorify thy name"; He explains that the voice came for the people's sakes; and He teaches that He speaks only what the Father gave Him to say.

The Holy Spirit — He is not named in these verses; in this moment Heaven puts the Son's prayer and the Father's answer in front of us — the Spirit's turn to be named in this story comes in the sagas still ahead.

One Thing to Think About

> **ONE THING TO THINK ABOUT** — The people standing by heard the voice from heaven, and some said it thundered, and some said an angel spoke — and Jesus said the voice came "for your sakes" (John 12:29-30). Can people stand in the presence of a revelation from God and still fail to recognize what God is saying?

Journal

Write it in your own words. The crowd heard the sound, but not everybody knew whose voice it was. What helps you know when God is speaking — and what can make a person miss it? Write it down plain.

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The Voice from Heaven — Teacher's Notes

JOHN 12:28-30, 49; JOHN 17:1 • KING JAMES VERSION

Church, I want you to notice that this time the Son is the One who speaks first — and the Father answers Him out loud, in front of everybody. Jesus does not pray to escape the hour. He prays for His Father's name to be glorified, and Heaven backs Him up with a voice the whole crowd could hear. I want to show you something in that answer — and I want to keep you straight on one word in it, the word *both*, because getting that word right protects the whole sermon.

> "Father, glorify thy name." Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, *"I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."* The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, "This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes." "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." — JOHN 12:28-30, 49
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> These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:" — JOHN 17:1

The Answer to the Student Question

The students were asked: people stood by and heard the voice from heaven — some said thunder, some said an

angel — and Jesus said the voice came "for your sakes." Can people stand in the presence of a revelation from God and still fail to recognize what God is saying?

Here is the answer I want you to teach, plain and straight: **yes — a person can hear the sound and miss the Speaker.** Every person in that crowd heard the same voice. Some pushed it down to weather: it thundered. Some pushed it up only halfway: an angel spake. Both were wrong. It was the Father, answering His Son, out loud. Hearing with the ears is not the same as knowing who is speaking. Jesus said the voice came for *your sakes* — for the people standing by — meaning God gave that moment as a gift, a chance to know. But a gift still has to be received. Teach it this way: when Heaven speaks, the question is never whether God spoke plain. The question is whether we will call it what it is — His voice — and believe Him.

A Teaching to Keep Straight — What "Both" Means

Now, church, here is the part I need you to hold tight. When the Father says, "I have *both* glorified it, and will glorify it again," that word *both* does **not** mean the Persons of God. *Both* joins two **occasions** — two times:

I. "**I have glorified it**" — already done: the Father has glorified His name through Jesus' life, His teaching, and His miracles, all that He has done up to this hour.
II. "**and will glorify it again**" — still to come: the Father will glorify His name again through Jesus' cross, His resurrection, and His exaltation.

In the Greek, the verbs are first-person singular — *kai edoxasa, kai palin doxaso* — one Speaker speaking: I glorified, and I will glorify again. One Father, one voice,

two occasions. Do not let anybody build the Trinity out of the word *both* — it will not hold it. The unity of Heaven stands on its own verses, and they are strong enough: John 17:1 — the Father glorifies the Son, and the Son glorifies the Father; and John 16:14, which we will teach in Saga 6 — the Spirit glorifies the Son. That is where the pattern stands. Keep each verse doing its own work.

Verse by Verse — John 12:28-30, 49; John 17:1

"Father, glorify thy name" (John 12:28) — I want you to hear what the Son asks for in His hardest hour. Not "save me from this." Glory for the Father's name. When a man is this close to the cross and his one prayer is his Father's glory, you are looking at a Son who is fully with the Father. Teach that first: the prayer comes before the voice. Heaven answers a Son whose heart is set on the Father.

***"I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again"* (John 12:28)** — The Father answers — past and future in one sentence, as taught above. The sermon point stands on its own: **The Father Has Glorified His Name, and He Will Glorify It Again.** What God has done, He will do again — greater. The cross ahead is not a defeat the Father will have to fix. It is the next glorifying.

"said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him" (John 12:29) — Two wrong answers from people who heard the same thing. Thunder makes it an accident of nature. An angel makes it a lesser voice. Church, people still do both today: they call God's voice a feeling, a coincidence, a mood — anything but God speaking. Our job as teachers is to name the voice right: that was the Father.

"This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes" (John 12:30) — Jesus did not need the voice; He

knew His Father. The voice was a mercy to bystanders. Notice: God speaks in this saga not to inform the Son, but to witness to the people. When God does something out loud where people can hear it, He is thinking about the hearers. So are we, when we teach.

"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (John 12:49) — Here is why Heaven agrees. The Son's words are the Father's words, given as a commandment — not just the message, but what to say and what to speak. Jesus never freelanced. So there can never be a gap between what Jesus taught and what the Father wants: the Son speaks the Father's own word. That is the agreement of Heaven, proven from the Son's own mouth.

"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" (John 17:1) — And now watch the glory go both ways. In John 12 the Father glorifies His name through the Son. In John 17 the Son asks the Father to glorify the Son — so that the Son may glorify the Father right back. It is a circle with no beginning of pride and no end of love: the Father glorifies the Son, the Son glorifies the Father. This verse — not the word *both* — is where you preach the mutual glory of Heaven.

A Short Preachable Outline

I. **The Son prays for the Father's glory** — "Father, glorify thy name" (John 12:28).
II. **The Father answers out loud** — "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again": two occasions, one Speaker (John 12:28).
III. **The crowd hears and misses it** — thunder, an angel — but the voice came for their sakes (John 12:29-30).
IV. **The Son speaks only the Father's word** — a

commandment for what to say and what to speak (John 12:49) — and the glory goes both ways (John 17:1).

Preaching Lines

> "When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees — the Son prayed for the Father's glory, and the Father answered out loud where the whole crowd could hear Him."

> "The Father has glorified His name, and He will glorify it again — what God has done before, He is not finished doing."