

Son-rise Service 2019.

John, The Disciple of Love

The boys of chaos:

- James, the son of Zebedee &
- John, his brother.

Mark 3:17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom Jesus gave the name **Boanerges**, that is, **"Sons of Thunder"**; ¹

The root-verb רגש (ragash) means thunder but only figuratively, and probably also because our modern languages lack proper synonyms. This verb is used only three times in the Bible:

- Why are the nations in an uproar . . . ?" - Psalm 2:1;
- "The nations made an uproar . . ." - Psalm 46:6;
- "Alas, the uproar of many peoples" - Isaiah 17:12.

HAW Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament has the following to say about this root (verb and nouns):

- "**Ragash** and its derivatives have been translated by such ideas as "tumult" or "noisy throngs". ²
 - Sons of Tumult, problems, storms, chaos.
 - Sons like Noisy Throngs

In summary: Loud boys of little grace, compassion and love

- **Boanerges** — **sons of thunder**, a surname given by our Lord to James and John (Mark 3:17) on account of their fervid and impetuous temper (Luke 9:54). ³

Luke 9:51-56

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

¹ *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Mk 3:17.

² There has been much speculation about this name. Given the Greek translation that comes with it ('Sons of Thunder'), it seems that the first element of the name is *bnē*, 'sons of' (the plural of 'bar'), Aramaic (בני). This is represented by *βοάνη* (*boanē*), giving two vowels in the first syllable where one would be sufficient. It could be inferred from this that the Greek transliteration may not be a good one. The second part of the name is often reckoned to be *rgaš* ('tumult') Aramaic (רגיש), or *rgaz* ('anger') Aramaic (רגז).

³ M. G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

- 52** and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.
- 53** But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.
- 54** And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"
- 55** **But Jesus turned and rebuked them,** and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.
- 56** **For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."** And they went to another village. ⁴

So, how does a loud, angry, hateful man become the

"disciple whom Jesus loved?" (John 13:23; John 19:26; John 20:2; John 21:7; John 21:20)

- **Used 6 times in the Gospel of John**
 - Not found in any other Gospel or N.T. writing.
- **Here's how:**
 - He witnessed Jesus' crucifixion
 - He was given Mary, Jesus Mother
 - Radical Character change
 - Abram - Abraham
 - Jacob - Israel
 - Saul – Paul

Most say it happened on the Mount of Transfiguration

How could this "CHANGE" occur with one son and not the other?

- **James – didn't want that quantum leap of character change**
 - **The Acts of the Apostles [Acts 12:1-2] records that "Herod the king"** (traditionally identified with **Herod Agrippa**) **had James executed by the sword.**
 - **James the Greater is traditionally believed to be the first of the Apostles martyred for his faith.**

⁴ *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Lk 9:51–56.

- R.E. Nixon suggests that this may have been caused by James's fiery temper, for which he and his brother earned the nickname *Boanerges* or "Sons of Thunder".⁵
- F. F. Bruce contrasts this story to that of the Liberation of Saint Peter, and notes that "James should die while Peter should escape" is a "mystery of divine providence".⁶

John wrote:

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.⁷

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, **and we beheld His glory,** the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John's nature was changed to supernatural:

- **Grace, compassion, love, joy, forgiveness, comfort, longsuffering, gentleness, self control**

John 18:12–28

12 Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

13 And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

14 Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.

16 But Peter stood at the door outside.

Then the other disciple (John), who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in.

17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter,

⁵ R. E. Nixon, "Boanerges", in J. D. Douglas (ed.), *The New Bible Dictionary* (London: The Inter-Varsity Fellowship, 1963), 1354.

⁶ F. F. Bruce, "Commentary on the Book of the Acts" (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964), 251.

⁷ *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984), 1 Jn 1:1.

“You are not also one of this Man’s disciples, are you?”

He said, “I am not.”

- Contemptuous use of οὗτος [*houtos*] with a gesture toward Jesus. She made it easy for Peter to say no. ⁸
 - Interesting how Jesus always said – “I AM”
 - Man would lie if telling the truth cost him something?

18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

- **Meanwhile, in the basement dingeon:**

19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, “I spoke openly to the world.

I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.

21 Why do you ask Me?

Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.”

22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?”

23 Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?”

24 Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself.

Therefore they said to him, “Are not you also one of His disciples?”

He denied it and said, “I am not!”

26 One of the servants of the high priest,

a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off,

said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?”

27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, **lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.**

- So, it’s not defiling to beat an innocent man – but this is why they strained at gnats and swallowed camels.

⁸ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Jn 18:17.

John next comes in contact with Peter at the Garden Tomb on Resurrection Sunday.

John 20:1-9

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

2 Then she ran and came to **Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved,** and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,

7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

- **No mention of the previous denials of Peter**
- No mention of Peter's mutiny
- No mention of Peter supposing to be the "Rock" upon which the church would be built.

- **Had Peter asked for forgiveness?**
 - Nothing recorded.
- Had John confronted Peter earlier about Peter's denials?
 - Nothing recorded.
- Had Peter arrived and asked Jesus for forgiveness without John knowing?
 - Pure speculation.
- Had John been so changed by watching Jesus being scourged, nailed to a cross and humiliated?

- o YES – John knew he deserved none of it.

John 21:1–23

1 After these things **Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias**, and in this way He showed Himself:

2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”

They said to him, “We are going with you also.”

They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

4 But **when the morning had now come**, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

- **Nothing in life, to me, is like the sun rise on the Galilee.**

Malachi 4:2 “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.

5 Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.”

- **When I see fishermen I always want to know – “Catch anything?”**

6 And He said to them, “Cast the net on **the right side** of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore **that disciple whom Jesus loved** said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

9 Then, as soon as they had come to land,

they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish,

one hundred and fifty-three;

and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

12 Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."