

# If I be lifted up

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In the New Testament John reports that Jesus says

## John 12:27-33

- 27** “Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.
- 28** “Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”
- 29** So the crowd *of people* who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him.”
- 30** Jesus answered and said, “This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.
- 31** “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- 32** “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* to Myself.”
- 33** But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

Jesus was indeed lifted up and as a result of this quotation we find people believing that all men will be drawn to Jesus because He was lifted up. Others extend the meaning to say that the drawing includes Christians lifting Jesus up – that all men will be drawn when Jesus is eulogized.

But is that what this verse is saying? No. If that’s what it means, I would not be writing this. Unfortunately, the KJV translated verse 32 thus:

- 32** And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

The word “men” they italicized. Rightly so! It isn’t there in the Greek. I think that they probably had John 6:44\* in mind. Most later translators have followed the KJV translators and used the “men” word but most of them fail to indicate (by italics) that the word isn’t there in the original. The translation ought to read:

- 32** And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all <... *insert your noun* ...> unto me.

The word “all” in the Greek is an adjective without a noun. So the reader is expected to supply a noun for himself; but which noun? Why not “men”? Here’s why – We do not actually see all men being drawn to Jesus, do we? So is there another noun suggested by the passage that does fit the context, one that does fit with our theology, one that does fit with known world circumstances?

There **is** such a noun that makes total sense. How have we missed it all these years? The previous verse supplies an obvious answer. How about “draw all judgment to Myself”. That (previous) verse has Jesus telling us that the world is under a curse, under judgment but the world ruler will be overcome and will be cast out. How? By the cross! ... I will draw the judgment to myself, overturn the curse and overcome the present world ruler. Isn’t that what happened?

Jesus was crucified (lifted up) drawing the judgment to Himself and thus He fulfilled verses 27, 28, 31, 32 and 33.

## \*John 6:44

- 44** “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.