

Before Abraham

6-2-24

John 8:58 (ESV)

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

The Jews and religious leaders are starting to challenge Jesus. They back up their challenge by citing Abraham as the father of their race. Even today, Abraham is a central figure in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. In 2020, the US tried to work out a treaty between the Arab countries and Israel. They called it the Abraham Accords. Great name because in a religious sense the US, Israel, and the Arab states all consider themselves children of Abraham. This is evident when the people and religious leaders respond to Jesus as HE makes claims about HIS deity.

John 8:52–53 (ESV) NO/OH

⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps MY WORD, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?”

To confront Jesus the Jews and religious leaders go back to their racial ancestry: Abraham died, are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Abraham is central to the Jewish faith. However, Jesus has a rude awaking for those who depend on their racial ancestry for anything whether it be strictly racial or social or religious.

Matthew 3:9 (ESV)

Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

To the Jews at the time and all people "today" who rely on their race for their religious or social standing, Jesus says that they are no different than a pile of rocks. The physical is not eternal and counts for nothing.

Galatians 3:7 (ESV)

Know then that it is those of "faith" who are the sons of Abraham.

By faith in Jesus Christ, we become "adopted" sons and daughters of Abraham. This is why Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again of the Spirit. Paul elaborates about becoming sons and daughters of God.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

You have received the Spirit of "adoption" as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

We become sons of Abraham by adoption, through the great "I AM" Jesus Christ who was before Abraham.

John 8:58 (ESV)

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Here we have Jesus stating again that HE is the "I AM". Previously we have seen where Jesus "as the I AM" has said that HE is the Bread of Life, and Light of the world. Now HE is saying that HE is the "I AM" preexisting Abraham. Jesus as the "I AM" of Exodus 3:14 is so prevalent in the Gospel of John, I wanted to give you an outside opinion on the subject.

Here is a note on this verse from The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Zondervan Publishing House.

"Before Abraham was born, Jesus as the "I AM" (the Greek words *egō eimi*)" could only mean a claim to deity. "I AM" implies continuous existence, including existence when Abraham appeared. Jesus was, therefore, asserting that at the time of Abraham's birth, he existed. Furthermore, "I AM" was recognized by the Jews as a title of deity. When God commissioned Moses to demand from Pharaoh the release of the Israelites, he said, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM' has sent me to you" ([Exod 3:14](#)). Theologian Douglas Stauffer states that "this phrase harbors within itself the most authentic, the most audacious, and the most profound affirmation by Jesus of who HE was". The explanation continues: When challenged in Mark 14 by the high priest at Jesus' final hearing, "Are you the Christ?" Jesus replied, "I AM." The violent reaction of the high priest condemning HIM to die indicates that the high priest understood that Jesus claimed to be deity.

Brothers and sisters, the whole of heaven and earth has been laid out to show the glory of God and salvation of HIS church.

Jesus clearly explains to us what the world's problem is.

Matthew 22:29 (ESV)

Jesus said, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."

Anyone interested in eternal life should be interested in what the Scriptures have to say. This is why Jesus gave us an assignment here on this earth. Just before HE was resurrected, notice what Jesus the Great "I AM" said to Peter who denied him 3 times!

John 21:15 (ESV)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." O/H - Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Like Peter we have been given an assignment by Jesus: FEED MY LAMBS! Also, we know what Jesus means because HE also said:

John 6:48 (ESV)

I am the bread of life.

Jesus is our life and sustenance.

John 3:16 (ESV) NO/OH

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.