

## John 8:48-59

### Verses 48-50

After hearing the words of Jesus, they slander Him with the worst of insults to the Jews calling Him a demon possessed Samaritan. Jesus responds by telling them they are dishonoring the Father by dishonoring Him because He is sent from the Father. Jesus continues to declare that He is not seeking His own glory, but the glory of the Father.

- **John 7:18** He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
- **John 17:4** I glorified You on the earth, <sup>[a]</sup>having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

### Verses 51-55

Jesus begins verse 51 with “truly, truly” which speaks to the weight and importance of words that follow. He states that all who believe in Him will never die. They think He is speaking of physical death, but Jesus is speaking of spiritual death. All who believe have eternal life through Christ. Since the Jews believe He is talking about never physically dying, they double down on the claim that He is a demon. They will refer back to Abraham and the prophets and how they died and then question who he is to make the claim that belief in Him results in something that Abraham and the prophets did not experience (He is talking spiritually, they are talking physically). They ask Him if He thinks He greater than Abraham? Yes! Jesus is being gloried by the Father who these people claim to know and have as their father. However, they don’t know the Father because they don’t know the Son. Jesus knows the Father and keeps His word. They neither know Him of keep His word.

### Verses 56-59

Following up on the question about Him being greater than Abraham Jesus gives an answer that will leave them in such anger that they will pick up stones to stone Him because His answer declares His deity. Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Jesus and His promised Messianic work as it was revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures including in prophecies and types and shadows. Abraham believed the promises in the Scripture concerning Christ and looked forward to the fulfillment of those promises and saw it as revealed in the OT scriptures. It was his belief in those promises that resulted in his righteousness. Abraham was justified and declared righteous by faith (**Genesis 15:6**). Every believer in the Old Testament and every believer after the death of Christ are saved and justified the same way: faith in Christ. The Old Testament people look forward to the cross and believe. Everyone after the death of Christ looks back and believes.

The Jews appeal to His age and tell Him there is no way He has seen Abraham. Jesus replies with “truly, truly” and declares before Abraham was “I AM.” This is referring to the name of Yahweh as revealed to Moses at the burning bush (**Exodus 3:14**). Jesus is Yahweh, Ego Eimi, the I AM. He is claiming His deity which is why they want to stone Him. The One who gave life to Abraham, declared his number the of days Abraham would live, caused Abraham’s heart to be, chose Abraham to be the father of faith, and died for Abraham was standing in their presence. He is before Abraham, He is greater than Abraham, and greater than all. John the Baptist declared the same message concerning Christ:

- **John 1:30** This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who <sup>[a]</sup>has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’

Their hatred for Christ is rapidly increasing as a result of His words. He has just declared He is Yahweh, and they pick up stones to stone Him. Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple because His hour had not yet come.

*Jesus was before Abraham. He was also before Moses and Adam. He was before the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, the angels, and the universe. He is before all things and in Him all things are held together (**Colossians 1:17**). Abraham looked forward to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and believed which resulted in righteousness being credited to Him. We now are to look back to the life, death, and the resurrection and believe which credits righteousness to us. Unless we believe Jesus is Ego Eimi (Yahweh) we will die in our sins (**John 8:24**). How incomprehensible is it that the one who lived a perfect life for you, laid down His life for you, was raised from the dead for you, covered you with His righteousness, and intercedes for you is the one who was before Abraham, the great I AM!*