

Jesus Was Before Abraham

I AM John 8:56-59

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.** Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

(John 8:56-59)

The Lord Jesus used the past tense of the verb when he was talking about Abraham. This is because Abraham had lived and died about 2,000 years before Jesus walked on the Earth. In the same sentence, Jesus used the present tense for himself. He said: "Before Abraham [was born] I am [already existed]. Jesus identified himself as living prior to Abraham, the Father of the Jews. It was also a reminder that at the burning bush God what declared to Moses: "And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:14)

The Jews detested that our Lord Jesus declared he (eternally) existed before their great ancestor. And too, Jesus used the reverential title I AM of himself. That was too much for them. The Jews rightfully understood Jesus identifying himself with deity. They wrongly considered this declaration blasphemy. They picked up stones to kill him.

Will we rejoice when it is OUR day to see Jesus Christ?

James Utter

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