

Before Abraham... I AM

John 8:58

Sermon Notes

October 18, 2020

Outline

- Intro
 - Context and Structure of John
 - 3 Passovers (Hanukkah)
 - Jerusalem-centric
 - Tabernacles for this account
 - TRANSITION: Read 8:31-59
- If the Son...I AM
 - I AM – 8:58 is our primary text for this text as a part of this series
 - Of all the I AM statements in John this is the one where Jesus most explicitly, most directly ascribes to himself the very name of God...but is Jesus really taking the name as his own?
 - Their response shows how they heard it, and I would argue how it was intended to be heard.
 - This Side of the Cross: I AM – Aug 2014 - This is the 2nd half of that sermon
 - My focus this morning is on the context of Jesus' profound statement: Before Abraham, I AM
 - TRANSITION: note how many uses of father, son, descendants, family, children – 20
 - Father and Son motif runs through the passage
 - Cultural understanding of father/son relationship
 - Father Abraham and his descendants
 - The devil and his children
 - Eternal Father and Eternal Son
- Father Abraham and his descendants
 - Reading responses only – their 1st two responses
 - Jesus' statements on descendants vs children – 37, 39, 56
 - Romans 9:8, Galatians 3:7-9 – true children of Abraham the man of faith
 - Conclusion – true children of Abraham are those who faith is credited to them as righteousness
- 8:44 Your father the devil – WOW! - Caustic exchange
 - Twice he says they are looking to kill him because they don't hold to his teachings
 - 8:31 to the Jews who had believed in him...not referring to "saving faith"
 - Those who have begun to follow him, because he may indeed be the Messiah, the king of Israel
 - "Jesus is winnowing his followers"
 - John 6:53, 60, 66 eating his flesh and drinking his blood, a hard teaching and many stop following
 - I believe the answer why Jesus does this is found in John 6:15 – it's a political motivation
 - We're not slaves, we've never been slaves
 - Zealots
 - TRANSITION: Mitchells - Listening with the intent to understand
- Understanding Jesus' teaching in the midst of the exchange
 - Tangent on Amen! Amen! – slide of 8:58 in Greek
 - At the beginning – Truly! Truly! or Very Truly in NIV
 - At the end – Let it be so → Deuteronomy 27
 - 3 times in this passage – 34, 51 and 58
 - Jesus sent by his Father
 - 38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence
 - 40 the truth that I heard from God

- 42 I have come here from God...God sent me
 - To set the slave free – hold to my teaching and be set free, free from sin and death
 - 35-36 comments – Son vs son
 - 8:53 Are you greater than our Father Abraham – 4:12 → 8:53 → Before Abraham was born, I AM!
 - Because Jesus speaks with the authority of his father
 - Verse 36 – if the Son or if the son
 - Indeed he carries the name of his Father...I AM
 - TRANSITION: Back to 8:58 As a young believer I found it grammatically jarring...
- Be set free through his teaching and his eternal presence
 - Present tense – Exodus 3:14, John 8:58
 - He IS revealing to Daniel what's to come
 - He IS present with the exiles
 - He IS calling Ezekiel to be a living testimony
 - He IS in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
 - Isaiah sees him seated on the throne, filling the temple with glory
 - He IS at the head of the armies leading Joshua to Jericho
 - He IS wrestling with Jacob, turning the deceiver into an overcomer
 - He IS telling Abraham and Sarah they WILL have a son
 - And He IS before Abraham, walking in the garden with Adam and Eve
 - John 1:1-3 IN THE BEGINNING was the Word...
 - But I AM doesn't just mean he WAS present but that he IS present, in our midst, advocating on our behalf, with us ALWAYS even to the end of the age
 - There are two great promises here
 - TODAY Jesus has been sent from the Father, the eternal Son with all the authority of the Father to set you and me free from sin and death.
- BENEDICTION
 - It's the year 2020...
 - 6 years ago... To know I AM is to know who I am
 - I want to call us to revisit those passions which animate our actions
 - Receive this blessing...

Research / Other

- Is the exchange with believing Jews?!?!
 - 8:33 They answered him
 - 8:39 they answered
 - 8:41 they protested
 - 8:48 The Jews answered him – a change? Referring to Jewish leaders?
 - Except in 8:44 Jesus calls them children of the devil

win•now win'ō

To separate the chaff from (grain) by means of a current of air.

To blow (chaff) off or away.

To examine closely in order to separate the good from the bad; sift.

- Detailed Greek study of 8:58

2036 [e]	846 [e]	2424 [e]	281 [e]	281 [e]	3004 [e]	4771 [e]	4250 [e]	11 [e]	1096 [e]	1473 [e]	1510 [e]
Eipen	autois	Iēsous	Amēn	amēn	legō	hymīn	prin	Abraam	genesthai	egō	eimi
58 Εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Ἰησοῦς	, Ἀμὴν	, ἀμὴν	, λέγω	ὑμῖν	, πρὶν	Ἀβραάμ	γενέσθαι	, ἐγὼ	εἰμί
Said	to them	Jesus	Truly	truly	I say	to you	before	Abraham	was	I	am
V-AIA-3S	PPro-DM3P	N-NMS	Heb	Heb	V-PIA-1S	PPro-D2P	Adv	N-AMS	V-ANM	PPro-N1S	V-PIA-1S

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- Including Amen, Amen

- How does the Septuagint present Exodus 3:14?

- **14**καὶ εἶπεν ὁ θεὸς πρὸς Μωυσῆν λέγων Ἐγὼ εἰμί ὁ ὢν · καὶ εἶπεν Οὕτως ἐρεῖς τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ Ὁ ὢν ἀπέσταλκέν με πρὸς ὑμᾶς.

◀ Exodus 3:14 ▶

[Exodus 3 - Click for Chapter](#)

559 [e]	3541 [e]	559 [e]	1961 [e]	834 [e]	1961 [e]	4872 [e]	413 [e]	430 [e]	559 [e]
lō-mar	kōh	way-yō-mer,	'eh-yeh;	'ā-šer	'eh-yeh	mō-šeh,	'el-	'ē-lō-hīm	way-yō-mer
תֹּאמַר	כֹּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	- אֲנִי	אֲשֶׁר	אֲנִי	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל-	אֱלֹהִים	וַיֹּאמֶר
you shall say	thus	and He said	I AM	who	I AM	Moses	to	God	and said
V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Adv	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Pro-r	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	N-proper-ms	Prep	N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

413 [e]	7971 [e]	1961 [e]	3478 [e]	1121 [e]
'ā-lē-kem.	šə-lā-ha-nī	'eh-yeh	yiś-rā-'ēl,	lib-nē
אֵלֵיכֶם :	שְׁלַחְנִי	אֲנִי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְבָנֵי
to you	has sent me	I AM	of Israel	to the sons
Prep 2mp	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	N-proper-ms	Prep-l N-mpc

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- How does a Hebrew new testament express 8:58?

- **58** וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם יֵשׁוּעַ אַמֵּן אַמֵּן אֲנִי אֹמֵר לָכֶם בְּטָרֵם הַיּוֹת אֲבָרְהֶם **אֲנִי הָיִיתִי**