

John 8:56-59

No. 128

Introduction.

I. The apostle John records these words in the 8th chapter of His gospel.

JOH 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. 8:45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 8:46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God." 48 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. 51 "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." 52 The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he shall never taste of death.' 53 "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him, and keep His word. "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57 The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.

II. In this reading we find that Jesus accused the Jewish leaders of being children of Satan because of their great wickedness.

- A. He said they did not hear Him because He spoke the truth. He challenged them to find sin in Him. The Jews then charged Jesus had a demon, that is, He was mad by demon possession
- B. Jesus emphatically denied He had a demon, but that He honored, glorified the Father.
- C. He also argued that **those who kept His word would not die.**
- D. The Jews insisted that Abraham and the prophets died and even those who listened to them died. They were enraged that Jesus said those who kept His word would not die. He was claiming to be greater than

Abraham and the prophets.

E. Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw {it} and was glad." (Jn. 8:56).

1. The words "My day" refer to the age (coming) of the Messiah.
2. It likely refers back to the promise God gave to Abraham. (Gen. 12:3).
 - a. Abraham was 75 when this promise was made and Sarah was 65. He had never begotten a child and she had never been pregnant.
 - b. God promised to bless all men through the seed of Abraham.
 - c. Abraham believed this precious promise, and rejoiced in the promise of mankind being blessed through his seed. He saw the Messiah through the eyes of faith.

I. **The Jewish Leaders Said To Him** - The Jewish leaders said to Him. (Jn. 8:57).

A. The Jews are not suggesting Jesus was near 50 years of age.

1. They responded by saying He was not even 50 years old - not even an elder or one entering His senior years, but according to their view Christ was claiming to have seen Abraham.
2. **Observe the way the Jews twisted the words of Jesus.**
 - a. Christ said Abraham saw His day.
 - b. They affirmed Christ said He saw Abraham.

B. **How old was Christ at this time?**

1. Christ's age is determined by knowing His age at the beginning of His ministry and by counting the Passovers after the beginning of His ministry. We find this information in the gospels of Luke and John.
2. Christ was about 30 when He began His ministry. (Lk. 3:23).
3. There were 3 or 4 Passovers during Christ's ministry.

Passover 1 - John 2:13 And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Passover 2? - John 5:1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

John 5:1 is assumed to be a Passover. This is not called a Passover feast. It could have been the feast of tabernacles, the feast of Pentecost, the Passover, or some other feast.

Passover 2 or 3 - John 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

Passover 3 or 4 - John 11:55 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover, to purify themselves.

4. The ministry of Christ was about 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years depending on if you interpret John 5:1 as a Passover.
5. Christ was then about 32 or 33 at the time claimed to be before Abraham, but Christ existed long before His incarnation.

II. **Christ Is Pre-existent** - Christ Is Pre-existent.

A. He was before Abraham. (Jn. 8:58).

1. Jesus affirmed He existed before "Abraham was." Abraham had lived about 1900 years before Jesus.
2. He used the words "I am" meaning He existed before Abraham was born or existed..
3. **This infuriated the multitude.**
 - a. They interpreted Jesus' statement as a claim to Deity.
 - b. Since they viewed Jesus as a man, this was tantamount to blasphemy. They picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself from them, and went out of the temple unharmed.

B. Later Jesus said He was before the "world was." (Jn. 17:5).

Jesus first claim to be before Abraham and now He claim to be before the world came into existence.

C. He was before all creation. (Jn. 1:1-3).

1. The fact He "was God" means He is eternal.
 - a. Deity does not have a beginning.
 - b. No one has made God.
2. It is explicitly stated He created "all things."
 - a. Since everything that has been made was made through Jesus, it means He was not made.
 - b. He has always been.
3. John 1:10

D. Colossians 1:15-17 supports these conclusions.

COL 1:15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

1. Christ is called "the firstborn" of creation.
2. This word means before and it denotes superiority or pre-eminence. Christ was and is superior over all creation. (Matt. 28:18).
3. Paul absolutely insists that Christ created all things and He was before all creation. (Col.1:17).

III. Other Passages

A. In Revelation 3:14 Jesus is called the "beginning" of creation.

1. The word "beginning" does not mean Christ was created.
2. It means Christ is the source or cause of creation.

B. Christ is eternal. (Isa. 9:6,7; Mic. 5:2).

ISA 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

MIC 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

1. Hebrews 1:8
2. 1 John 1:1-2.

1JO 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life– 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

C. These passages all support the claim Christ made that He was pre-existent.

1. In **Isaiah** He is called “everlasting Father” or “Father of eternity.” Jesus is called the “father of eternity” because He possess this attribute.
2. In **Micah** He is described as the One whose goings forth were from old, from the days of eternity.
3. In **Hebrews** God Himself called Jesus “God” and exclaims His throne is “for ever and ever.”
4. In **John** He is called “the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.”

Conclusion

- I. In this lesson we have learned that there is insurmountable evidence Jesus did not have His beginning in Bethlehem of Judea. He did not have an beginning at all. He is pre-existent. He was before Abraham, He was before the world was. He was before all things. He was before the angels. He is eternal, He is Deity and the Creator of all things.
- II. **What does all this means to us?** It means Jesus should be preeminent in our lives. We should completely and totally commit our lives to Him as the Eternal One. He should be our Lord, our Savior, our all in all.
- III. **All men must submit to Jesus to be saved.**
 - A. Only those who accept Him will be saved. (Jn. 14:6).
 - B. Submit to Jesus now. Come and be buried with Him in baptism for the remission of your sins. Come as we stand and sing.

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