

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 8:48-59

INTRODUCTION: JESUS STATES HE IS ETERNAL

After having received a scolding from the Lord Jesus that they were not of God, and in reality lost in their sins. The Jews came back with an argument of their own.

They did not believe that Jesus was who he said he was, neither did they believe in what he did. Instead they retaliated by claiming that Jesus was an imposter. Remember this was all done in the Temple where Jesus was preaching and teaching all this time since he had returned from the Mount Olivet.

This section of scripture that Jesus was preaching about was His claim to be eternal. And for this reason the Jews sought the more to kill him.

Let's look now at those scriptures that close off this Chapter 8.....

⁴⁸ Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

1. To be called a Samaritan was the lowest of the low in the eyes of the Jews.
2. The Jews never ever wanted to have any dealings with the Samaritans, and the Jews said that the Samaritans were not worthy people and were not true worshippers.
3. Contrary to what Jesus had done, when he went into Samaria and the woman at the well with her whole village believed.
4. We are told in the scriptures that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans.

John 4:9

Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, **How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.**

5. The Jews consequently walked around the city of Samaria on route in their journey just so that they would avoid the Samaritans. That's how much they hated them.
6. So now for the Jews to call Jesus a Samaritan was a blasphemous act on their part, and they even charged him of being demonic. Demon possessed.
7. The act of demonizing Jesus was a way in which they could shake off the guilt of sin that was fully cast on them. This is what people do to shift the blame off them. They berate others. Politicians do this a lot.
8. Earlier on in John 7 they had accused Jesus of being demon possessed, and here we see it again.

John 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

9. Often when you call someone out for the things that they have done wrong, they will turn on you and accuse you of the very same thing. This is again what we see happening here where Jesus called their father a devil. So now here we find them accusing Jesus of being devil possessed.

John 8:44

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

10. The Jews claim to be saying the truth was far from it. They posed the question as “if THEY” were telling the truth. **Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?**

⁴⁹ **Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.**

1. Without hesitation Jesus reply to such a lie, was to state the truth. **I have not a devil.**
2. Without stopping at the statement of truth, Jesus continued to follow up on that counterfeit statement from the Jews by continuing to say.....**but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.**
3. Jesus told them plainly that they were not only lying, but also dishonoring Him in the process of that lie.
4. Sin always dishonors God, and this was no exception.

⁵⁰ **And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.**

1. Jesus had told the Jews earlier that God is no respecter of persons.

John 5:41-42 ⁴¹ I receive not honour from men. ⁴² But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

2. Jesus was not looking for the glory amongst men, and he had told the Jews that.
3. Even at that time in John 5:42, Jesus told the Jews that they did not have the love of God in them. So nothing has changed between John 5 and John 8. They were still unbelievers.
4. The glory that Jesus was seeking was from His Father. He wanted to please His Father.

⁵¹ **Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.**

1. This is what the Apostle Paul preached about in 1 Corinthians 15:55
2. Death would not have its victory.
3. The death Jesus was referring to here was a spiritual death of the soul. As opposed to a spiritual life to the resurrection. Death in this case was the association of judgment to everlasting separation from the Lord.
4. The statement Jesus was saying was if you keep his truths you will have eternal life with him. Eternal life means you won't have a spiritual death of separation from the Lord.

5. The Apostle Paul said it this way for us to understand more clearly.

1 Corinthians 15:52-58

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ **O death, where is thy sting?** O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶ **The sting of death is sin;** and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

➤ That is why we saw Jesus tell the Jews in John 5:24, the following.....

John 5:24 ²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed **from death unto life.**

6. Those that **“hear” Jesus word** and **believe on him that sent Jesus** will have everlasting life. It's that simple.

⁵² **Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.**

1. The claim that Jesus made to the Jews of not seeing death was confirmation for them that they believed him to be demon possessed.
2. To the Jews this statement meant that if you did not sin then you would not die.
3. So they gave the example of spiritual men that they knew who had already died.
4. To them these prophets and Abraham kept Gods saying but still died. So to them this meant that Jesus was lying.
5. They were thinking in the physical and not in the spiritual.

⁵³ **Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?**

1. Having not laid off the pressure on Jesus the Jews retaliated with continuous name throwing.
2. By stating if Abraham and the Prophets were all dead. What did this make Jesus position?

3. They were accusing him of what made him so special?
4. They asked him if he is greater than Abraham and the Prophets?

⁵⁴ **Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:**

1. The escalation of questioning would soon lead to an answer that they would refute and reject.
2. Again Jesus told the Jews what he had told them earlier. His honor was nothing if he did not honor his Father.
3. He told the Jews that the Father he was honoring was who they referred to as their God.
4. What an answer in deed. Especially when we see in the scriptures that God does not honor men. But that God honors his Son and the Son honors the Father.
5. In other words the short version of it is that God the Son can only honor God the Father and vice versa.
6. This does of course not mean that we should not honor God the Father and God the Son.

John 5:23

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

7. By man honoring God the Father or God the Son, does not mean that God must be a respecter of them. It is God who decides that.

⁵⁵ **Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.**

- This is confirmation of Jesus being with God. Jesus told the Jews and us in John 7:20 that he was from His Father.

John 7:29²⁹ But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

- Again Jesus found it necessary to repeat himself to the Jews.
- How many times does the Bible tell us the same things over again and still we do not believe?
- So don't be too harsh on the Jews here either. It's not their time to believe but the time will come when they will.
- Luke reminds us in Acts 3:13 that Jesus is from God.

Acts 3:13¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, **the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus;** whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

- And Peter reminds us yet again of the same Lord of whom the Father is well pleased.

2 Peter 1:17 ¹⁷ For **he received from God the Father honour and glory**, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

8. Jesus told the Jews he could not lie, but only state the truth, which he did. Jesus said to the Jews.....**but I know him, and keep his saying.**

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

1. If ever you reduce Jesus to nothing less, but a man, **you will die in your sins.**
2. Because if you do that you reduce his saving grace to that of a man, and a mere man cannot save you.
3. When Jesus spoke these words to the Jews, and of course he is still speaking these same words to us today.
 - Never the less, when Jesus spoke these words, little did the Jews know what he said and what it all meant.
4. They did not know their OT (Torah) sufficiently to realize that they were in fact speaking to Jesus the Messiah who is God.
5. They had reduced him to a mere mortal who they wanted to put to death.
 - Here are those words from the scripture that should have reminded them of who they were speaking to.

Take a look with me.

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

¹⁶ And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

¹⁷ That in blessing **I will bless thee**, and in multiplying **I will multiply thy seed** as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

¹⁸ And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; **because thou hast obeyed my voice.**

6. When we first read this Chapter we do not pay it enough close attention to figure out all that is going on. Instead we focus on the subject of the Chapter which is Abraham who was going to sacrifice his son.
7. Yet more than that is taking place here if you did not see it already.
 - Look with me again.
8. The angel of the LORD here is none other than Jesus.

9. It is to this Chapter that Jesus was pulling the Jews attention to. But sadly they did not see it, or even want to believe it.
 10. It is the communication from heaven to Abraham direct. It was the very passage that Abraham would have clung to, to rejoice in Jesus His Lord.
- Earlier on in the same Chapter of Genesis 22:11 we see the communication as it started off between Jesus and Abraham.
 - This was not just an angel, but the Lord himself speaking, because as you read through this passage it tells us who is speaking and what would be the result of Abraham serving God.

Genesis 22:11-12 ¹¹ **And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven**, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. ¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: **for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.**

- This here is Jesus speaking. **for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.**

11. Jesus here is the **“angel of the LORD”** “calling unto him out of heaven.

12. Jesus told the Jews in Luke 10:24 the same thing.

Luke 10:24 ²⁴ For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

13. I realize that we cannot use the NT to win over the Jews because they don't believe in the NT. But for the believers in the NT we see passages like Gal 3 as confirmation of our Lord addressing Abraham.

Galatians 3:8-9 ⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that **God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. ⁹ So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

14. So here in Galatians 3:8-8 is the confirmation for N.T. believers that Jesus did give Abraham the Gospel. Which is the death burial and resurrection in Jesus Christ.

⁵⁷ **Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?**

1. By stating this claim Jesus was saying he was there before Abraham was born.
2. This could only mean that Jesus was eternal.
3. This was claim to his deity, as being God.

⁵⁸ **Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

1. Jesus confirms his pre-existence before Abraham.
2. As we know Jesus does not lie. This means he is eternal.

3. It was because of this claim from the Lord as saying he was eternal, which meant nothing short of the claim to the Jews that he was God. Led to them being angered and to try and kill Jesus there and then on the spot.
4. The statement Jesus made "**Before Abraham was, I am**", is the same statement we see in Exodus 3:14. Where God uses the term to describe himself as I AM.

Exodus 3:14 ¹⁴ 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**.

5. Jesus at the burning bush with Moses is the same Jesus here with Abraham who was going to sacrifice his son.

⁵⁹ **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.**

1. For this reason the Jews picked up stones to stone Jesus.
 2. They wanted to kill this person who claimed to be God, who they believed to be a demon and a blasphemer.
 3. Jesus did three things here which I see as significant.
 - A. **Firstly** he made himself invisible. Also again in John 12:35-37 he did the same.
 - B. **Secondly** he left the Temple. Which meant no more truth for the Jews because they had rejected him.
 - C. **Thirdly** he passed by them all. He never stopped, he never looked back, he never took judgment then. He was done with people who would reject him.
- When people harden their hearts, God will harden his.
 - God knows no bounds. There is no limit to his habitation, and nothing can prevent him in any way.

The Jews found that out here in our text in verse 59. When Jesus left their midst without being seen. He disappeared from them all.

- This is certainly not the only case in the scriptures we see this.

John 20:19 ¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, **when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst**, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

- What about.....again in Mark 16:14.

Mark 16:14 ¹⁴ Afterward **he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat**, and upbraided (*rebuked*) them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

- What about Luke 24:36-40.

Luke 24:36-40

³⁶ And as they thus spake, **Jesus himself stood in the midst of them**, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

³⁷ But **they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.**

³⁸ And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

- When the Lord left us to return to His Father in heaven he said to us all, that he would come again.
- Unlike in the temple Jesus left because they did not believe in Him. But for the believer Jesus will come again.

Acts 1:9

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was **taken up**; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing **up** into heaven? this same Jesus, which is **taken up** from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

- **Jesus left on the Mount of Olives and he will return on the same place.**

That is why the scripture says we need to look up.

Because he will come back in the same manner.

Jesus is Eternal. The Alpha and the Omega.

Revelation 22:13

I am **Alpha and Omega**, the beginning **and** the end, the first **and** the last.

PRAYER.....CLOSE