

Jesus' Divine Declaration 2019-07-21

John 8:53-59

Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" 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.' But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."

So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Jews never spoke of God directly as their "Father" \. John 8:49, 10:30, 17:1 & 25

- Jews recognized a claim to be Son of God was a claim to be equal with God.
 - Jesus went beyond that indirect claim and declared He is God. "I AM"
- Because Jesus is God, His promises are sure. John 8:48-52

Jesus is claiming neither He nor anyone who follows Him will "ever see death".

- He did not say "never die" but "never see death." *change "see" to "taste"*
 - Christians die physically but kept from 2nd death...free indeed from judgment. John 11:25-26, 5:24, Revelation 20:14-15, Ephesians 2:5
 - Because Jesus is God, His promises are sure.
 - Christians already passed from death to eternal life.

Misunderstood death but not claim He is greater than Abraham John 8:53-57

- Followed His logic: If promising men will never die, Jesus is claiming to be greater than any person who ever lived because all died...including Abraham.

Jesus claimed preeminence over Abraham further by stating Abraham rejoiced in His coming.

- "My day"= whole of Jesus' life/death/resurrection from 1st - 2nd coming.
 - By some revelation not recorded in Genesis, Abraham saw coming of Messiah.
- Jews not believe Jesus' claim because he was not old enough to have seen Abraham.

Jesus is not merely claiming "I preceded Abraham" but He eternally pre-existed John 1:1, 2; Colossians 1:17

- Jesus always was....never created and never came into being.
 - So He knew God and they didn't because He was with the Father from all eternity.

If only want claim pre-existence say, "Before Abraham was, I was." Not reason to stone him.

- Instead divine/deadly declaration: "I am"=Yahweh/Jehovah. John 8:58, Exodus 3:13-14

Applied holy name of God given to Moses by God @ burning bush to Himself.

- Jews not miss His point: "I AM God of Israel who led Hebrews out of wilderness and into Promised Land.....I am one with the Father."

- God is triune difficult to grasp yet true. Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:19, Mark 1:9-11, Colossians 2:9
 - Not a god (Jehovah's Witness), not one God who acts like Father (Old Testament) or Son (New Testament) or Holy Spirit (after Pentecost)...Modelism.
 - God is one God who exists in three distinct persons. Each is fully God and yet He is not three Gods, but 1 God.
 - Jesus' deity is foundational to Christian faith and crucial to personal faith.
 - Take away Jesus' deity and take away His atonement for sin.
 - Because Jesus is God, His work on cross was successful and His claims and promises are true and sure.

Literally set yourself against God if oppose/reject Jesus. John 8:58-59, 20:31

- Spontaneously w/o pronouncing sentence, they try to stone Jesus for blasphemy.
 - They blasphemers, cursing/attacking the very God they claimed to serve!

Either Jesus is a crazy madman or He is who He claimed to be, I AM, God, Lord of glory.

- Claims backed up by Scripture He fulfilled, sinless life, miracles, resurrection, history.
 - Because Jesus Christ is God, His promises are sure.
 - Freedom from sin's penalty/power to all who believe!
 - Kept from 2nd death....free indeed from future judgment.