

John 8:48-59
Rome Georgia
September 20, 1987
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Andrew Breitbart – “ truth is not mean – it is just truth.”

Recently the inhabitant of the oval office used 18 different euphemisms in order to avoid using the word **terrorism!**

John 8

FAITH BEYOND REASON – A.W. TOZER

Actually, what our Lord had to say to them was holy, and it came from a holy heart. It came from a heart that later was to die for the very persons to whom He was speaking. Yet, because of the serious nature of their unbelief, our Lord had to impale them on the end of His spear. He turned them around so all the ages could see them. There are always some who will argue that Jesus should have compromised, that He should have tried to get along with the Pharisees and Jewish leaders. We humans ought to notice something very wonderful and very, different about the Lord Jesus. He was genuine . . . **He was what He was, and He was never anything else but what He was.** (see "I am" mn) We presume that He could have got along with these folks better than He did if He had wanted to. He did not have to rub salt into the wounds, but He did.

He did not lose His temper, but He never backed off. Neither did He ever say anything that He later had to take back. You will notice that our Lord never had to apologize. He always said exactly what He meant and always with exactly the right amount of rebuke or love or compassion. If it had been His ministry to do it, He could have compromised and got on better. But He drew the line sharply and said, "**He that is not with me is against me**" (**Matthew 12:30**). He left no area open as a twilight zone, In the kingdom of God there will be no darkness, and in hell there will be no88 t{f to blend them into a compromising twilight. In our day, churches are trying to offer such a compromise between heaven and hell. Some pastors feel this is the way to get along with people and to improve the church's public relations. Honestly, our Lord would have flunked any such test on public relations. People would not have given Him a grade of 30 percent. He would have flunked the whole thing because He was dealing completely in the area of truth, and **Truth is just truth :it never has to worry about its image.** Truth never worries about the effect it will have, about who is going to hate it or who is going to accept it It never-worries about what there is to lose and what there is to gain. Jesus is truth incarnate **Our Lord was truth incarnate, and that explains all of the conflict,** all of the animosity. Perhaps He could have backed off and said the same thing in a gentle, half-hearted way. Then there would-have been no line drawn. **If He had done that ,He would have pleased those who preferred to see heaven and hell join arms and go down the street in fellowship saying "If we cannot agree- at least let's not disagree.** "I think it is a different matter when we are concerned only with opinions- things that are not spiritual and issues that are not moral. If it is only a matter of taste the decent thing to do is to say, „If we don't agree, let's not let it come between us!;, But when the issue is a matter of spiritual conviction

INTRO:

I. THE IDENTIFICATION OF GOD. EXODOUS 3:14-15

Exo 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them?

Exo 3:14 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.

Exo 3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.*

I AM THAT I AM = THE SELF EXISTANT ONE. THE NAME CONVEYS THE IDEA OF AN EVER INCREASING REVELATION OF HIMSELF.

"The name signifies, He who is, according to **Exodus 3:14**.; more particularly, He who is what He is. DR. GUSTAV FRIEDRIECH OEHLAR

(But as it is not the idea of a continuous existence which lies in the verb HAVAH or HAYAH, (היה ha^ˆya^ˆh *haw-yaw'*) but that of EXISTENCE IN MOTION, OF BECOMING AND OCCURING...so also the form of the name as derived from the imperfect leads us to understand in it the existence of God, not as an existence at rest, but as one always becoming, always making itself known in a process of becoming.")

This sacred name is known as the *tetragrammaton* ("four letters"). English *Jehovah* comes from the Hebrew *YHWH*, with vowel markings supplied from Elohim and Adonai, other names of God. **BBC**

"While heathenism rests almost exclusively on the past revelations of its divinities, this name testifies on the other hand, that the relation of God to man is in a state of continual living activity." DR. GUSTAV FRIEDRIECH Oehlar. v. 1. p. 263 *Chafer Systematic Theology*

"The designation **Jehovah** appears in the Bible after the creation of man and is generally used where relationships between God and man are involved, and ESPECIALLY IN MAN'S REDEMPTION." (Jehovah is from היה ha^ˆya^ˆh *haw-yaw'* used as **I AM** in **Ex. 3:14**)

"THE NAME AS IT IS REVELED TO MOSES, IS, FIRST OF ALL, THE UNVEILING OF THE TRUTH OF THE ETERNITY OF DEITY." **CHAFER.**

JEHOVAH LIVES AS NO OTHER BEING LIVES, HE IS NOT CAUSED, HE IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THAT IS. HE IS UNCHANGEABLE, INFINITE, AND ETERNAL

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of John we have seen how God took on Himself the form of a man and dwelt among men. He came first and foremost to the people to whom He had first revealed Himself as "I AM THAT I AM." But we read in v. 11 that "He came unto his own and his own received him not..."

Much of the rest of the Gospel of John deals with this REJECTION BY THE JEW OF THEIR GOD
We left off last week with Jesus making this very clear to the Jews who had gathered to accuse Him. **IN FACT, HE PULLED NO PUNCHES WHEN IT CAME TO POINTING OUT THEIR CHIEF PROBLEM!**

SEE **JOHN 8:47** "...YE ARE NOT OF GOD."

WITH THIS STATEMENT BY JESUS - THE LEADERS AGAIN BEGIN TO ACCUSE HIM **8:48**

II. THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST CHRIST.

SAMARITAN - - - DEMONIAIC

JESUS REPLY - **48-51**

Joh 8:49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.

Joh 8:50 And I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges.

Joh 8:51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR JESUS TO GO BACK INTO HIS GENEALOGY, HE HAD DONE THAT ALREADY IN **CHAPTER 6**.

REVIEW **CH. 6 - SEVEN FOLD DECLARATION BY CHRIST THAT HE CAME FROM HEAVEN**
(**NOT SAMARIA**.) 6:33, 6:38, 6:41, 6:50,51, 6:58, 6:62.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he which **cometh down from heaven**, and giveth life unto the world.

Joh 6:38 For **I came down from heaven**, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Joh 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Joh 6:50 **This is the bread which cometh down from heaven**, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. **Joh 6:51** **I am the living bread which came down from heaven**: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Joh 6:58 **This is that bread which came down from heaven**: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

Joh 6:62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man **ascend up where he was before?**

AND BECAUSE HE IS THE LIVING BREAD Jn. 6:51 – JESUS CAN SAY IN **Jn. 8:51** "IF ANY MAN SHALL KEEP MY SAYING, HE SHALL NEVER SEE DEATH."

JOHN 8:52-53

Joh 8:52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, '**If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.**'"

Joh 8:53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. **Who do You make Yourself out to be?"**

"...WHOM MAKEST THOU THYSELF." Or "WHOM DO YOU MAKE YOURSELF OUT TO BE?" NASB

OR WITH THE NIV "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?"

8:54-55

Joh 8:54 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

Joh 8:55 **Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him**. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

JESUS FIRST REITERATES HIS SUBMISSION UNTO GOD THE FATHER - AND THEN REITERATES HIS CONTENTION THAT THE JEWS DO NOT KNOW GOD!

THEY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT ABRAHAM? OK BY HIM!

8:56 - -**Joh 8:56** Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

AS TO ABRAHAM SEEING CHRIST:

1. CF. **HEB 11:13**, "**THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES**, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AFAR OFF, AND WERE PERSUADED OF THEM, AND EMBRACED THEM, AND CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH."

2. ABRAHAM WAS NOT "DEAD" IN THE SENCE OF UNCONSCIENCENESS. HE WAS YET ALIVE AND AWARE AND REJOICING. CF. **8:52**, NOT SEE DEATH.

III. THE IDENTIFICATION OF GOD.

"No instructed Jew who was present missed the fact that Christ **asserted of Himself that He is the "I Am,"** the **Jehovah** of the **Old Testament**." Chafer V. I p. 264.

"**A CREATURE BY GENERATION MAY BEGET AFTER IT'S KIND, BUT NONE BUT AN ETERNAL BEING COULD BEGET ETERNAL LIFE.**" CHAFER v. 1 p. 341

Not only had Christ existed **before Abraham** - but that He had **always existed** prior to the time when He was speaking.

"He mounts up far beyond Abraham. He ascends beyond all the orders of creation. And he places Himself with **GOD** at the head of the universe." John Whitaker in Chafer v. 1, p. 324.

"BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM. John 8:58

He did not say "before he was, I was." This would of course been sufficient to prove that He existed before Abraham. But it would not have adequately conveyed what he now meant to convey...**THAT IS His full claim to the majesty of the Messiah.** Accordingly, He drops all language that could have been misconstrued to refer to a mere mortal man and adopts a phrase that undeniably asserts His equality with God. **He says of Himself that which God has said of Himself - I AM " BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS MADE - I AM**

CHRIST IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH THE SAME IDENTIFICATION THAT GOD USES! I AM

IT IS THE SAME "STAMP OF ETERNITY" WHICH GOD APPROPRIATES FOR HIS OWN IN IDENTIFYING HIMSELF.

THIS IS WHY THE AUTHOR OF **HEBREWS** COULD SAY
"JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER."

HE IS UNCHANGEABLE, INFINITE, AND ETERNAL

For this bit of "blasphemy" on Jesus part, **8:58** the Jews took up stones to slay Him. **8:59**

(See **Jn. 10:33** for the reason they wanted to stone Him.)

SEE ALSO: John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.