

## I. Introduction

- A. Jesus is Lord of time.
- B. If Jesus was not, He would be the most heinous of liars (like the Jews-V. 55).
- C. He promised:
  - 1. Eternal life.
  - 2. Rescue from sin.
  - 3. A new heart.
  - 4. Escape from God's wrath.
  - 5. Righteousness.
  - 6. Hope for the eternal future.
  - 7. Joy,
  - 8. Love.
  - 9. Extended family.
  - 10. Etc...
- D. It would be tempting to ask what it would take to obtain all of this.
  - 1. The shocking answer is: you can't!!
  - 2. These things are unobtainable.
  - 3. They are hopelessly out of reach and impossible to obtain.
- E. John 1:12-13=they are given.
  - 1. That is right: they are only given.
  - 2. This is the sense of the "gift" of salvation.
- F. The evidence of having these things = belief.
  - 1. Therefore, to not believe the Words of Christ ≠ salvation.

John 8:24

24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

1 John 5:10-12

10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

## II. v. 56 "Abraham, our father, rejoiced in order that/because he saw My day, and he saw and rejoiced."

- A. Jesus said, "Your father."
1. Why did Jesus say it like that?
    - ✓ John 8:37, 39 = Jesus referred to Abraham a couple times already.
  2. Abraham as the source for the Jews was not a source of gratitude, joy, it was a source of pride and self-righteousness.
    - a) Abraham was a far different person than these men (8:33-40).
    - b) Yet, Jesus refers to them as "your father."
  2. It would seem that Jesus continues to hold them in contrast to their assertion that they are just like Abraham.
  3. They are not (and as we will see, Abraham is not like Jesus).

B. He maintains their heritage thereby holding them accountable to that heritage.

C. Made other "your" statements:

1. John 8:17 - Your Law
2. Matthew 23:37-39 = Your house

B. "...(Abraham) rejoiced because he saw My day, and he saw (it) and rejoiced."

1. Notice the verbs are Aorist (past).
  - a) Points most regularly to past event.
  - b) Points to specific time.
2. What is Jesus' "day"?

Luke 17:24

24 "For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day.

C. "Day" in John =

1. Literal = 1:29, 35, 39, 43; 4:43; 6:39 etc..
2. Metaphoric = 9:4; 12:7.
3. Far fewer times "day" is used metaphorically, or figuratively, as compared to literal.

D. Was there ever a time when Abraham "rejoiced" in light of Messiah?

1. Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-16, 27.
2. Abraham received the promises of:
  - a) Righteousness - Genesis 15:6; cf. Romans 4:1-3; Galatians 3:6.
  - b) Progeny - Genesis 12:2; 15:5-6.
  - c) National identity - Genesis 12:2, 3.
  - d) Eternal permanence - Genesis 12:3 ("blessed" = Genesis 1:28).

## A Greater Than Abraham: John 8:56-59

3. He was promised by God all these things and His promise was to come about means if the "seed" of Genesis 3:15.
- E. He knew Messiah was coming, and by these promises, he knew that Messiah was coming by means of his line, according to promise.
1. From Adam to birth of Shem, Ham and Japheth = 1556 years (Shem was 96.5 when the flood occurred according to Genesis 11:10) + 96.5 = (1556+96.5)=1652.5
  2. So, Adam died over 100 before Noah was born. Noah was alive when Abram was born.
  3. The promise of Genesis 3:15 was foundational to all who hoped in God and would have been the hope of Adam, Noah, and Abram in time.
- F. Besides, Abram interacted with Jesus, pre-incarnate:
1. Genesis 12:7
  2. Genesis 17:1-22
  3. Genesis 18
  4. Therefore, the promises of Genesis 12 were very real, and sure.
  5. Besides, seeing God as he did, would have been as if seeing Him in His glory walking on the earth as He did with father Adam.
- G. What is faith?
1. This is faith.
  2. Hebrews 11:1-2 = it is a conviction that you receive from God that what He has said is accurate, true, and will happen. It is understanding that:
    - a) Scripture = reality.
    - b) Scripture = authority.
    - c) Scripture = hope.
  3. NOTE: it also means that the reproach of following God in light of His Scripture is far more crucial and joyful than the passing pleasures of sin.

### III. V. 57 "Therefore, the Jews said to Him, "you do not yet have 50 years, and you have seen Abraham?!"

- A. 30-50 years was time frame for service in ministry:
1. Numbers 4:23, 30, 35; 8:24;
  2. 1 Chronicles 23:3, 24, 27;
  3. Ezra 3:8
- B. It was the terminus for age of service.
1. This indicates, by the way, the rigor and stamina needed to serve in the Tabernacle.
  2. May also indicate what it takes to serve God in the church as well (not age, but effort).
- C. "you have (not yet) seen..." = Perfect tense verb.
1. Indicates that they understood that Jesus was speaking of something literal.

## A Greater Than Abraham: John 8:56-59

2. They were stunned.
3. Why?
  - a) Because they do not speak the language of faith, but of real-time activity.
  - b) Religious people cannot understand obedience and belief in something that is not tangible.
    - (1) NOTE: that is, ultimately, they (religious people) want to "do" something.
    - (2) This is what they say:

John 6:26–30

**26** Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

**27** "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

**28** Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

**29** Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

**30** So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?"

## Here is the problem: Romans 9:27-33!!

### IV. V. 58 "Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you all: before Abraham was begotten, I am."

- A. Bomb!!!
- B. Point:
  1. Abraham = "was begotten"
    - a) Temporal
    - b) Born on earth.
  2. Jesus = "I AM"
    - a) Eternal
    - b) Created the earth!
- C. Exodus 3:14
  1. It is clear that here is the stark contrast of Jesus over everyone else.
  2. It is always this way.

## V. V. 59 "Therefore, they raised up stones in order that they might cast upon Him, but Jesus hid and came out from the temple."

- A. So ends His aggressive ministry in the temple in this narrative.
  - 1. He was compelled to go up by His brothers (John 7:1).
  - 2. He did not go under their orders.
  - 3. He did go under the orders of the Father (John 7:10).
  - 4. It was the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles to commemorate Israel's exit from Egypt.
    - a) However, it was more a religious ceremony with little tie to the Exodus.
    - b) It was a money-maker for the Jews.
  - 5. It was the last day of the Feast that most of the exchange happened.
- B. It was time now to move on.
  - 1. The next exchange, John 10, is much like this one.
  - 2. It sandwiches chapter 9 = 9 the healing of the blind man.
- C. "He hid Himself" = miracle in order to preserve Jesus until the right time.
  - 1. Luke 24:13-16
  - 2. John 20:14; 21:4

## VI. Conclusion

Jesus Christ is in fact greater than Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In fact, He alone is greater than Confucius, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Dali Lama, the Pope etc... because none of these people have been given the promises that Abraham was given by God, and Jesus is greater than Abraham.

Beloved, give praise to God for His indescribable gift!!