

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM

Following the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus began an intense doctrinal teaching in the temple. The setting for this began in John 7:2, 37 and 8:2.

Jesus is speaking to a hostile audience: (Jn.8:6, 20, 22, 37, 44 & 48)

“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 words, he shall never taste death. Surely you are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; who do you make yourself out to be?’” (John 8:52-53)

Jesus spoke these following words for our study to this hostile crowd:

“Jesus said to them, truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was (ginomai / aorist infin), I am.”
(eimi / present a. ind)

Did they understand what He had just said?

“Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.”
(Jn 8:59)

They understood that He was declaring His pre-existence with God.

“The Jews therefore said to Him, ‘You are not yet 50 years old, and have you seen Abraham?’” (Jn.8:57)

What did Jesus mean when He declared: “Before Abraham was, I am.”? (Jn.8:58)

**We will study four homiletical points of the lesson “Before Abraham was, I am.”
[Support, Son, Sustainer and Savior]**

1. Support for pre-existence statement: “Before Abraham was, I am.”?

Gen. 12	Abraham	Gen.5-4	Adam and Sethites family
Gen.11-10	Tower of Babel	Gen.3-2	Fall of Adam
Gen.9-6	Noah’s flood	Gen.1.1	Creation

This takes to Gen.1:1 –“In a beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Was Jesus Christ before creation? He is Alpha and Omega (Rev.1:8; 21:6; 22:13)

2. Son is the answer!

- (John 17:5) In eternity past, Jesus Christ existed as **God, the Son**.

“And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.” (2 Cor.13:14; Heb.1:3) [Godhead].

- After His historical coming into world by miraculous conception (Luke 1:34-35), He became the **Son of God**.

“And he is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (Col.1:15)

- When we believe that gospel of Jesus Christ, we become **sons** of God (Jn 1:11-13; Gal.4:4-7).
- The Jews sought to kill Him

“Because He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”
(Jn 5:18; 6:46; 10:30)

3. Sustainer - creator of the universes.

(Col.1:16-17; John 1:1-3, 10). Jesus created the universes out of His own pre-existence and not of pre-existing matter.

Jesus was part of the Godhead and not part of creation.

4. Savior of the world is why Jesus is the great I AM.

“Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil.2:6-8; 1 John 4:9-10)