

'Before Abraham was I AM.'

Introduction:

1. Who is Jesus? a good teacher? a good person who taught us good things?
 2. It's been said—the choices we make in this life echo into eternity...
 3. Your Decision to this question will determine your eternal destiny
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I. BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM

A. THE ASTONISHING STATEMENT (John 8:57-59)

1. **One of the most profound and perplexing statements Jesus ever made**
 - a) Based on their reaction—they knew exactly what Jesus said and meant
2. **Notice What Jesus Said: 'Before Abraham was, I AM'**
 - a) Jesus did NOT say: 'Before Abraham was, I was,'
 - b) but, 'Before Abraham was, I am.'
3. **Here is the claim that Jesus is timeless!**
 - a) There was never a time when He came into being...
 - b) There will never be a time when He is not in being...
 - c) Jesus is the Majestic I AM... The One Who Is
 - d) Pre-Existent... Timeless... Eternal... Above and Beyond Time
 - e) Jesus was there when Abraham was born!

This Astonishing Statement is Connected to an Astonishing Encounter...

B. THE ASTONISHING ENCOUNTER — THE BURNING BUSH

1. **Moses was raised in Pharaoh's Palace: with two conflicting world-views**
 - a) An Egyptian Belief System taught to him by his Egyptian adopted mother
 - b) And He was taught the TRUTH from His True Mother
 - c) The Truth About Who God is and Who Moses was as a descendent of Abraham
2. **When Moses saw the suffering of His People—**
 - a) He could no longer deny His True heritage and remain in the palace of Pharaoh
 - b) It was in the wilderness Moses saw the burning bush and encountered God
3. **The Majestic I AM, YHWH The One Who Is (Exodus 3:1-6; 13-15)**
 - a) This is the personal Holy Name of God YHWH
 - b) I AM, The One Who Is, YHWH is the LORD God!

C. THE ASTONISHING IMPLICATIONS

1. **Before Abraham Was I AM – This is the Majestic Eternal nature of Jesus...**
 - a) Just as was prophesied! (Isaiah 9:6) > **This was a light-bulb moment for me**
2. **Jesus said: 'Abraham Rejoiced to see My day and he saw it and was glad.'**

What an Astonishing statement! HOW? WHEN?

- a) Did Jesus speak to Abraham like He spoke to Moses & Elijah on Mt Transfiguration?
- b) Was Abraham Allowed to see a Prophetic Glimpse of the Future in a dream?
- c) Was Abraham allowed to see from Paradise & witness the eternal plan accomplished?

3. **When Jesus Was Born—Abraham Was Alive in Paradise! (Mt. 22:31–32)**

- a) Abraham was alive and in the presence of God, the Angels and all the redeemed
- b) If the Angels Rejoiced at Jesus' Birth isn't it possible Abraham rejoiced too?!
- c) We Know Angels Rejoiced... Jesus said, Abraham Rejoiced...

But Not Everyone Rejoiced to See Jesus! — Some are Gnashing their teeth!

II. THE 'I AM' STATEMENTS OF JESUS

A. **I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:32–35)**

1. **The Manna they ate in the wilderness was not from Moses but from God...**

- a) But it was physical food that only lasted a while and they were hungry again...
- b) Eventually they got tired of Manna and Complained about it...

2. **Jesus is the Bread of Life... *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.***

B. **I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12; 9:5)**

1. **God is light and in Him is no darkness...**

- a) The World Without God is Dwelling in Darkness
- b) The Darkness of Evil... Darkness of Depression... Darkness of Deception

2. **Jesus is the Light of the World...**

- a) Whoever follows Jesus is not in Darkness but has the Light of God and Light of Life!

C. **I AM the Door for the Sheep (John 10:7-10)**

1. **Sheep were brought together at night for safety—in a pen or enclosure**

- a) But the Enclosure didn't Have a Door... Because the Shepherd is the Door
- b) The Shepherd Slept in the opening so no sheep could go out or in...

—unless they go through the Shepherd of the Sheep

2. **Jesus Protects His People from Wolves, Thieves and Attackers**

- a) So His Sheep Can Go In and Out in Peace and Safety and without Fear

D. **I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)**

1. **Not All Shepherds are good shepherds...**

- a) Their Sheep are Malnourished, Dehydrated, Weak and Sick
- b) They drink from stagnant water and get parasites, worms and harmful bacteria
- c) Constantly irritated by flies and infections

2. **Jesus is the Good Shepherd... Who Lays Down His Life for the Sheep**

- a) Why Would We Follow Men Who Don't Know You, Don't Care About You and Have Never gone beyond the Grave...
- b) When Jesus Loves You, Died For You and Went Beyond the Grave and Came Back to Save You and Give You Eternal Life!

E. I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

1. Jesus had Power Over Death—

He Broke Up Every Funeral He Ever Attended!

a) Jesus Could Not Attend A Funeral Without Raising Them From the Dead!

2. ONLY Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

a) Not Self-Help Authors and Self-Help Books

b) Not Pagan Rituals or Cryogenic Technology

c) ONLY JESUS Has Power Over Death and Can Give Eternal Life

F. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)

1. Jesus is the WAY...

a) Many people claim they are the way to God, or to peace or Joy

But There is Only ONE WAY!

b) Only Jesus came from heaven to Be the Perfect Atoning Sacrifice For Sin!

c) No One Else DID That and No One Else COULD do that!

2. Jesus is The Truth: that Sets Us Free from the lies of the enemy...

3. Jesus is the LIFE: The Creator and Sustainer of all Life...

The Only One Who Can Give Abundant and Eternal Life...

G. I AM Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8)

1. He began all things and He shall end all things.

2. All things find their purpose, meaning, and significance in Him.

3. No matter how chaotic and confusing life may seem—

all things are under His control.

H. I AM the First and the Last (Revelation 1:17–18)

1. When Your Trust is completely in Jesus You Don't Need to Fear Any Longer

2. Jesus is Alive forevermore!

3. He is on His Throne and Nothing that happens on earth Can Change That!

III. THE IMPLICATIONS TODAY

A. WHO IS JESUS?

1. Some want to Say Jesus was a Good person, a good moral teacher

a) A “good person” doesn't claim to be God!

b) A “good person” doesn't say, No one can go to the Father except through me!

c) A “good person” does not claim to forgive sin

d) A “good person” doesn't say, Before Abraham Was I AM!

2. This is a TRI-LEMMA—>FLOW CHART

Either Jesus is the Son of God or He Isn't

a) CS Lewis: “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher... Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him... or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come away with any patronizing nonsense about His being only a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

b) Jesus Did Not Allow This as an Option!

B. JESUS IS GOD—God the Son... the Great I AM

- 1. (Isaiah 9:6) What an Amazing Prophecy!**
- 2. (John 1:1 > 14) The Word became flesh to live not as a king but a servant!**
- 3. (Revelation 1:8) Jesus is the Almighty... the Great I AM!**

C. YOUR DECISION DETERMINES YOUR DESTINY

1. What a Tragedy that Jesus went to His own and His own received Him Not!

They Rejected Him!

a) They Had Based their salvation on their Lineage to Abraham...

As if Their DNA Match to Abraham Would Save Them...

b) But Rejecting the Savior of the world God promised to Abraham!

2. So They’re Faith Was In Their Ancestry to Abraham—Not in God Himself!

They’re Faith Was in MAN—But Abraham’s Faith Was in God!

a) Abraham was Called By God and Challenged by God to Be a Witness to All Nations

b) His Response is the very biblical definition of faith! **(Hebrews 11:8)**

By Faith Abraham Obeyed! To TRUST & OBEY!

3. ‘Jesus is worth everything you are afraid of loosing’

CONCLUSION:

1. How Amazing that the...

- Hurricane became Human...
- the Fire Became Flesh...
- Jesus left the Palace to become a Servant
- To be born in human form to die in human flesh

2. One Day We Will Meet Him—We Will See Jesus face to face!

(Revelation 1:17–18)