

John 8 — Before Abraham Was, I Am

John 8:58 (with 8:24 · 8:28 · 8:59) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

In John 8 the whole argument at the temple keeps circling one question: who does Jesus think he is? He answers it in the plainest words in the entire Gospel: **"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am"** (8:58). Not "I was" — "I am." That's the name God gave Moses at the burning bush, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14), and Jesus lays it on himself. He's been building to it the whole chapter — "unless you believe that *I am he*, you will die in your sins" (8:24), and "when you have lifted up the Son of Man... you will know that *I am he*" (8:28). Then the crowd settles the meaning for us: **"they picked up stones to throw at him"** (8:59). They didn't misunderstand him — under their own law, blasphemy was a stoning offense, so they heard exactly what he said. This week's reading sits with that claim and what it costs to take it seriously: Jesus of Nazareth speaking the name of God over himself.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Take a pen through John 8 and underline every time Jesus says "I am." Start at **8:12** ("I am the light of the world") and follow the thread all the way to **8:58** ("before Abraham was, I am"). Then read the burning-bush scene in **Exodus 3:13–15** and set the two side by side. Ask one question: if "I am" is only a figure of speech, why does the crowd reach for stones?

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 8:12 · 8:24 · 8:28 · 8:58–59 · 13:19 · 18:5–6

Other Gospels: Mark 14:61–62

Rest of Scripture: Exodus 3:14 · Isaiah 43:10–13 · Deuteronomy 32:39

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

You Will Never See Death

John Piper — Desiring God

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/you-will-never-see-death>

On John 8:48–59 — calls "before Abraham was, I am" the clearest claim in this Gospel that Jesus is Yahweh, the God of Israel.

Before Abraham Was, I AM

R.C. Sproul — Ligonier Ministries

<https://learn.ligonier.org/series/knowning-christ/before-abraham-was-i-am>

Sproul on the last of the "I AM" sayings — how 8:58 reaches back to the divine name of Exodus 3:14.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 8

J.C. Ryle

<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j08.htm>

On 8:58 — Christ's eternal pre-existence, "very God," and the practical comfort that he is therefore "able to save to the uttermost."