

## BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM (JND)

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The Jews were not interested in the putative death of their system but in their ignorance as to how they should act in accordance with that system.

There is a deep principle of error which we have to watch; the error of not seeing God as He does, but seeing the things of God with our own human minds. This is the present state among churches and Christians which, generally, like the Jews of old, looks at things from their point of view and not as God sees things.

The big question between the Jews and the Lord Jesus is that the Jews failed to recognise who He was and understand His relationship to God the Father and His faithfulness to God. The Jews said to the Lord, "Thou art not yet fifty years old and how hast Thou seen Abraham?"

They did not look outside their own senses. They saw the Lord Jesus as a mere man which was the essence of their darkness and ignorance. Only the Lord could give them light.

"Before Abraham was born, I am," said the Lord. In other words he was telling the Jews that they did not know who He was.

He did not say, "Before Abraham was, I was Jesus Christ!"

He said, "Verily, verily I say unto you that before Abraham was, I am!"

It is clear from Scripture that Melchizedek who met Abraham and shared a meal of bread and wine with him is Jehovah. The very name I AM means Jehovah. Jehovah is God and appeared to men in Old Testament times. In the New Testament Jehovah is the Christ. No man hath seen God the Father at any time and the Holy Spirit is a Spirit Being and also unseen.

In this the Lord Jesus told a great and vital truth. Without this truth no man can attain redemption for it was Christ who brought it. How could any man be restored to God except by the existence and work of the Saviour?

The great truth was declared, then denied with violence. The Jews took up stones. They said that what they heard was blasphemy. What they were doing was rejecting Christ and, therefore, rejecting God and the great I AM, Jehovah.

He, as Jehovah, spake from the burning bush identifying Himself as the great I AM. He became a man. Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Christ of the New testament. What truth! Do we believe it?

It is true. All the wondrous manifestations of God to men were as Jehovah in the past and as Christ since Bethlehem. He is the Eternal Word of God who became flesh. He is without beginning of days and without end of life. He was God in the flesh when He became human and as a baby in Bethlehem but He remains Divine. After His death and resurrection He ascended into heaven, received in glory. This is essential truth. He, the great I AM, is the Eternal Word of God.