

Abraham Rejoiced to See Jesus!

*“Your father **Abraham rejoiced to see my day**: and he saw it, and was glad. (57) Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?”
(John 8:56-57)*

Jesus said that Abraham had seen Him!

This is obviously what these Jews understood Jesus to mean. They mocked and said to Jesus that He wasn't even fifty years old. How could Jesus have seen Abraham when He was so young?

Often, when this passage is referenced, it is in the context of Jesus claiming to be God. In the very next verse, Jesus tells them that before Abraham was, “I am”.

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)

The Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to be the great “I AM” who spoke to Moses from the burning bush. This is clear from the next verse where they took up stones and wanted to kill Him.

“Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.” (John 8:59)

When did Abraham see Jesus?

As noted above, this passage of Scripture is often cited to validate the deity of Jesus, **and it does**; however, In this chapter, we want to examine the question, “When did Abraham see Jesus?”

It seems that Abraham could have “seen” Jesus possibly during two events, according to the Bible. The first being when the three visitors came to Abraham telling him that Sarah would have a son. The two previous chapters of this book discuss this event in some detail. Abraham rushed to prepare a feast for these guests and called one of them “Lord”. The context of this situation leaves little doubt that one of these visitors was a Theophany or a Christophany.

The second time whereby Abraham may have “seen” Jesus was when Melchisedec blessed him. If in fact, Melchisedec was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus, then Abraham would have seen Jesus during this visit.

Perhaps both of these events were visitations of Jesus to Abraham. We cannot know for sure; however, we do know that Jesus said Abraham saw Him.

Perhaps neither occurrence was Abraham seeing Jesus. Some people believe that Jesus’ statement simply meant that Abraham saw the Messiah with the eyes of faith. In other words, Abraham had known of Messianic prophecies and had received the promise of God and simply believed them. Thus, he saw Jesus via faith.

However, consider these facts:

- The Jews clearly understood that Jesus said Abraham saw Him.
- Jesus did not deny this when they asked how Abraham had seen someone younger than fifty years of age.
- Jesus told them that He existed before Abraham.

It seems that Abraham actually saw Jesus. It is very interesting to look at the biblical history in regards to this event and ponder the thought, “When did Abraham see Jesus?” Melchisedec is certainly a viable answer.