



## Believe and Have Life

*The Gospel of John*


**John 8:48–59**

**Read John 8:48–59.**


1. Jesus has just said that the people he’s talking to “belong to [their] father, the devil” (v. 44) and “do not belong to God” (v. 47). How do the people try to account for the things Jesus has been saying? (v. 48)
2. How does Jesus himself account for his words? (v. 49b; 8:26b, 28)
3. How does his attitude contrast with that of his listeners? (vv. 37–47; 5:23b; \* 5:44)
4. In verse 51 Jesus promises, “If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”
  - a. What kind of death do Jesus’ listeners think he means? (\* This is not the first time Jesus has been misunderstood in this way; see also 3:3–4; 4:13–15.)
  - b. What kind of death does he in fact mean? (5:24; 11:25; Rev. 20:13–15)
5. In their attempt to show that Jesus’ promise cannot possibly be true, the Jews again turn to Abraham, the father of the nation, who “believed the LORD” (Gen. 15:6) and “was called God’s friend” (Jas. 2:23). What point do they make about Abraham (and the prophets)? (vv. 52–53)
6. Jesus does not seek glory for himself. Who is the “one” (v. 50) who seeks glory for Jesus? (v. 54)

How does Jesus refer to him at the end of verse 50? (See also 12:48; \* Deut. 18:18–19)

7. Jesus’ glory is on a completely different order from what his human audience expects. What are the three stages of Jesus’ glory?  
1:1, 14; 17:5

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

12:23–24, 27–28, 32–33

Phil. 2:5–11; \* Rev. 5:12

8. Jesus says that “Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day” (v. 56). What inkling did Abraham have of God’s plan? (Gen. 12:1–3)
9. Those listening to Jesus asked him earlier, “Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham...?” (v. 53a, NASB). What does Jesus now state in verse 58?
10. How does the Jewish audience respond to his statement? (v. 59)

Why? (Ex. 3:13–14; Lev. 24:16)

11. When God the Father calls himself “I AM” in the Old Testament, he is revealing more than just his name.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. How do these passages show God’s character and mission?  
Ex. 3:14–17

Is. 43:11–15

- b. Jesus’ referring to himself as the “I am” (v. 58) reflects the fact that his character and mission are the same as God the Father’s. How is this mission described in the following passages?  
3:16–17

8:31–36

6:37–40

12. Consider God’s faithfulness in fulfilling his promise to Abraham, in delivering the Israelites, and ultimately in sending his Son to rescue the lost finally and completely. Take a moment to thank and praise him for accomplishing his plan of salvation.

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<sup>1</sup> George Beasley-Murray, *John Word Biblical Commentary*, Vol. 36, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000), 140.