

# John 8:48-9:41

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July 25, 2004

# The Pre-Existent Christ (8:48-59)

## *Is Jesus Greater than Abraham?*

*Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" (53)*

- The Jews had previously (6:30-31) asked Jesus for a miraculous sign and then reminded Him that Moses had given them manna in the desert
  - Almost as if to say, "Top that, Jesus!"
- Now they are challenging Jesus to measure up to Abraham
- They do not understand that Jesus is speaking of spiritual death
- They do not understand that Jesus is indeed greater than Abraham

# The Pre-Existent Christ (8:48-59)

## *Jesus Is Greater than Abraham!*

*Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." (56)*

*"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (58)*

- ⦿ Here Jesus claims eternal existence by using the name of God (I Am) for Himself.
- ⦿ This joy of Abraham is referred to in Hebrews 11:13
- ⦿ Just when did Abraham see Jesus's day?

# What Did Abraham See?

- ⦿ <sup>11</sup>By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup>And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. <sup>13</sup>All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

## **Hebrews 11:11-13**

- ⦿ <sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, <sup>18</sup>even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." <sup>19</sup>Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. **Hebrews 11:17-19**

# What Did Abraham See?

- ⊖ <sup>8</sup>The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." **Galatians 3:8** (cf. **Gen 12:3; 18:18; 22:18**)
- ⊖ <sup>15:1</sup>Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **1 Cor. 15:1-4**

# Parallels Between Isaac & Christ

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- Isaac was Abraham's only son, whom he loved (Gen 22:2)
- Abraham went to the region of Moriah with his son (Gen 22:2)
- Abraham sacrificed his son (Gen 22:2,11)
- On the third day (Gen 22:4; cf. Heb 11:19)
- Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance (Gen 22:4)
- Abraham took the wood....and placed it on his son (Gen 22:6)
- Isaac willingly laid down his life
- Jesus was God's only begotten Son (Jn 3:16) whom He loved (Mt 3:16)
- God took His son to the region of Moriah (2Ch 3:1; 2Sa 24:24)
- God sacrificed His Son (Jn 3:16; Ro 8:32; 1Jn 4:10)
- Christ arose on the third day (1Co 15:4 cf. Jonah 1:17; Mt 12:39-40)
- God saw Calvary from eternity past for Christ is the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8)
- Jesus carried his own cross (Jn 19:17)
- Christ willingly laid down His life (Jn 10:17-18)

# Whose Fault? (9:1-3)

## *Placing Blame for a Man's Blindness*

*who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (v.2)*

*"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. (v.3)*

- Some object to the notion that God is somehow using this man as a sort of spiritual guinea pig.
- Nevertheless, God does clearly allow sickness and even death for His own glory
  - Job (Job 1:8; 2:3)
  - Lazarus in John 11:4,40
- It is not always possible for us to say that a specific consequence is the result of a specific act (Lk 13:1-5)

# The Light of the World (9:5)

*"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

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- We too, are the light of the world (Mt 5:14) since Christ is our life (Col 3:4)
- Light speaks of the glory, the radiance, the beauty, and the wonders of God.
- Light reveals things; darkness hides things
- Light is self-revealing (by its very nature, it makes itself known).
- Light speaks of the white purity and the stainless holiness of God
- Light guides men (Ps 119:105)
- Habakkuk in his prayer declared that God's splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand..." [Hab 3:4].
- See also Ez 1:25-28; Da 7:9; Rev 1:16b.

# Light and Darkness (9:5)

## *I Am the Light of the World*

### What do the Scriptures mean by light and darkness?

	Intellectual Aspect	Moral Aspect	Behavioral Aspect
<b>Light (what we are)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents Truth</li> <li>• What you know</li> <li>• What you believe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiness</li> <li>• What you think</li> <li>• How you act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodness</li> <li>• Righteousness</li> <li>• Truth</li> </ul>
<b>Darkness (what we were)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ignorance</li> <li>• What you know</li> <li>• What you believe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents evil</li> <li>• What you think</li> <li>• How you act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orgies, drunkenness, immorality, debauchery, dissension, jealousy</li> </ul>
<b>Scripture</b>	2Corinthians 4:4; Romans 1:21; Ephesians 4:18	Isaiah 5:20; Romans 13:12-13	Ephesians 5:8-9; Romans 13:13

After MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1986.

# The Light of the World (Verses)

## *Why Don't People See The Light?*

- ⦿ **Question:** If Jesus is the light of the world, why didn't those around Him see the light?
- ⦿ **Answer:** Blind people need sight, not just light. You'll never get through to a blind person by shining the light in their eyes!
- ⦿ *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."* 2 Cor. 4:4
- ⦿ We need sight as well as light.

# Spiritual Blindness (35-41)

## *Jesus Opens Eyes and Gives Light*

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*Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." (39)*

- The enemies of the Lord Jesus could not see because they were spiritually blind.
- The blind man also could not see, even when the Light of the World stood before him, but Jesus is going to reveal Himself to him.
- Light reveals the condition of the eye.
- The Light of the World reveals the condition of the soul.
- Before the blind man can see, he must have his eyes restored.
- Before the spiritually blind can see, they must have their spiritual eyes opened (2Ki 6:17, 20; Ps 119:18)

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