



Chapter 8 – Part 1

- Woman caught in adultery
- “I AM the light of the world” sermon
- The Truth Will Set You Free
- Before Abraham Was, I AM

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John 8

Chapter Highlights

- One of the highest chapters of the Person of Jesus in the Bible.
- **Woman Caught in Adultery** - Conviction & Forgiveness of Sin
- **“I AM the Light of the World”** (one of 7 great “I Am” statements)
- Unless you know Jesus, you cannot know the Father (v.19)
- If you don’t follow Jesus, you will die in your sin. The rejection of Christ is the unpardonable sin.
- **“You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free”**
- **You are of your father, the Devil – He is a murderer and a liar**
- **“Before Abraham was, I AM”** - Jesus claims to be the pre-existent, creator God, in human form.

John 8:1-11

Woman Caught in Adultery

- V.7:53-8:12 are not in original Greek manuscripts, however, there is little reason to doubt the event took place (Papias describes similar event)
- **7th Commandment** required stoning as punishment adultery (Ex 20:14)
- The question was a **trap** because if Jesus rejected the Law, he would be discredited, and if agreed, He would not appear compassionate and would be infringing on the Roman authority to impose death sentences.

John 8:1-11

Woman Caught in Adultery

- **Why and what Jesus wrote with His finger on the ground** cannot be known, but tradition says it was:
 - **Jer. 17:13** “Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth, Because they have forsaken the LORD, The fountain of living waters.”
 - **Ex 23:1** “You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.”
 - **Ex 23:7** “Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.
 - **Daniel 5** – God uses a hand to write on the wall to declare the judgement of the King.
 - Tradition also says Jesus wrote the sins of the accusers.

John 8:1-11

Woman Caught in Adultery

- Jesus' famous response in v.7 is a direct reference to Deut. 17:7
 - **“He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone”**
- Deut. 17:7 **“The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you.”** (**think about that before you accuse someone of sin – will you throw the 1st stone?**)
- V.9 says the accusers were **“CONVICTED BY THEIR CONSCIENCE”** – because their motives were impure (to kill Jesus), and they were not applying the law correctly, since the man caught was not present (Lev 20:10). Jesus shows how the Law & Mercy are harmonized.
- This is a wonderful picture of the **Holy Spirit convicting people of sin**, however, **they did not repent** and turned away from Jesus.

John 8:1-11

Woman Caught in Adultery

- Jesus says “**neither do I condemn you**” (John 3:17; 12:47),
- **Implies like God Himself, He has the right to forgive sin.**(Mark 2:5-11)
- Jesus’ reply upheld the Law, since He didn’t deny the woman’s guilt, but He used the Law to expose the sins of the accusers.
- **Jesus reveals that the Pharisees were unfit to be the woman’s judge, since they were guilty of hypocrisy.**
 - **Romans 2:1** – “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.
- Jesus also teaches in 8:11 “**sin no more**”, that forgiveness is not a license to sin, and He commands her to abandon her sinful lifestyle.
 - **Romans 6:1-** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not!”

John 8:12

"I AM the Light of the World"

- **I AM** – Exodus 3:14 – Yahweh – the covenant name of God
- **The Light of the World**
 - Light is a symbol for the presence of God, similar to the Shekinah cloud of God in the temple.
 - Light also contains Wilderness Allusions, was a major feature of the Feast of Tabernacles and is also a title for the Messiah in OT

John 8:12

”I AM the Light of the World” Wilderness Symbolism

- Chapter 6 – 1st Metaphor – **Living Bread** – OT Background is **Manna in Wilderness (at Passover Feast)**
- Chapter 7 – 2nd Metaphor – **Living Water** – OT Background is the Messianic rock that provided **Water in the Wilderness (at Feast of Tabernacles)**
- Chapter 8 – 3rd Metaphor – **Light of the World** – OT Background is the **Pillar of fire in the Wilderness** (Ex. 13:21; 40:36-38) (at Feast of Tabernacles).
 - Exodus 13:21 “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and **by night in a pillar of fire to give them light**, so as to go by day and night.”

John 8:12

"I AM the Light of the World"

Feast of Tabernacles Symbolism

- **Context** – v.2, 4 – says He was teaching in the **Temple** where the Jews lit 4 huge lamps in the temple court and the leaders would hold torches in their hands on every night of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- The light from the temple area would glow over all of Jerusalem. Analogy of light is therefore very relevant.

John 8:12

"I AM the Light of the World" Messiah Claim

- **Isaiah 42:6-7**

- “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,
- **As a light to the Gentiles,**
 ⁷To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison,
 Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

- **Isaiah 49:6**

- ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant
 To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved
 ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,**
 That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth

"I AM the Light of the World"

Old Testament Significance

- John already said in 1:4 the He “was the light of men”, but this metaphor has many OT allusions (Ex 13:21-22; 14:19-25).
 - **Psalm 27:1** “**The Lord is my Light and my salvation.**”
 - **Psalm 119:105** “**Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.**”
 - Ezek 1:4, 13, 26-28, Hab 3:3-4; **Isaiah 49:6**;

”I AM the Light of the World”

Eschatological (End Times) Significance

- **Isaiah 60:19-22**

- “**The sun shall no longer be your light by day**, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; **But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light**, And your God your glory. ²⁰Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. ²¹Also your people *shall all be* righteous;

- **Rev. 21:23-24**

- ²³The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. **The Lamb is its light.** ²⁴**And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light**, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

- **Zech. 14:5-7** (promise of continual Light on the last day, followed by the promise of living waters flowing from Jerusalem.)

- It shall come to pass in that day *That* there will be no **light**; The lights will diminish. ⁷It shall be one day Which is known to the LORD— Neither day nor night. **But at evening time it shall happen *That* it will be light.**

John 8:12

I AM the Light of the World

- Light of salvation & truth
- Darkness is the opposite of light, and results in spiritual blindness, hardness of heart and foolishness.
 - **Isaiah 5:20; Eph 4:18; Eccl 2:14**
- Paradox that explains why people reject Jesus and hate the light is perfectly described in **John 3:19** – people love the very darkness that traps them and love their sin and evil deeds that produces death. They hate the light because it exposes their evil deeds.
- Just as Israel followed the pillar of fire in the **Wilderness** (Ex. 40:36-38), Jesus calls people to follow Him. (**Exodus symbolism**)

John 8:13-20

Jesus Authority (2 more “I AM” statements)

- Pharisees argue that under OT Law, every legal matter had to be proven by more than one witness (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6). In reality, there were witnesses (John the Baptist, Samaritan woman, etc.)

Jesus provides 3 Evidences

1. **His Divine Origin** (v.14-15)– Since they did not **know where He came from or where He was going**, the Pharisees were judging Him in limited, superficial earthly terms, “according to the flesh”
2. **They Judge by Earthly Standards** (v.16)– when Jesus says “I am not judging anyone”, means He did not judge according to the flesh as the Pharisees did, but He had unique authority to judge (5:27). This also could have eschatological meaning that He did not judge anyone yet, but He will in the future.
3. **He & Father are one** (v.18-20) (like in 5:19-30; 7:17)

“I AM” & The Names of God

- **Jesus declares Himself to be Yahweh, the God of the Old Testament** (Ex. 3:14; Deut 32:39; Is. 41:4, 43:10)
- Before Abraham *was* (past tense), Jesus *is* (present tense). **Jesus was claiming pre-existence.**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wM05WY-guo> - Which Name of God Did Jesus Use? - Yahweh / Jehovah / Adonai (2 min)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-kxwCDrOg> - What did Jesus mean when He said 'I AM'? (2 min)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkQ0pzQ5THo> - Different names of God (5 min)

Names of Jesus in the Bible

Advocate – 1 John 2:1	Hope – 1 Timothy 1:1	Ransom – 1 Timothy 2:6
Alpha and Omega – Revelation 1:8; 22:13	Horn of Salvation – Luke 1:69	Redeemer – Isaiah 59:20
The Almighty – Revelation 1:8	I Am – John 8:58	Rescuer from this Present Evil Age – Galatians 1:4
Amen – Revelation 3:14	Image of God – 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15	Radiance of God's Glory – Hebrews 1:3
Apostle and High Priest of our Confession – Hebrews 3:1	Indescribable Gift – 2 Corinthians 9:15	Resurrection and Life – John 11:25
Author and Finisher of our Faith – Hebrews 12:2	Intercessor – Hebrews 7:25	Rising Sun – Luke 1:78
Beloved – Matthew 12:18	Jesus – Matthew 1:21	Root of David – Revelation 5:5
Beloved Son – Colossians 1:13	Jesus the Nazarene – John 18:5	Root of David's line – Revelation 22:16
Bread of God – John 6:33; 50	Judge of the World – 2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 10:42	Root of Jesse – Isaiah 11:10
Bread of life – John 6:35	Just One – Acts 7:52	Ruler – Matthew 2:6
Living Bread – John 6:51	Just Judge – 2 Timothy 4:8	Ruler of the kings of the earth – Revelation 1:5
Bridegroom – John 3:29	King – Matthew 21:5	Ruler and Savior – Acts 5:31
Brother – Matthew 12:50	King of Israel – John 1:49	Savior – 2 Peter 2:20; 3:18
Captain of our Salvation – Hebrews 2:10	King of Kings – Revelation 17:14; 19:16; 1 Timothy 6:15	Savior of the world – 1 John 4:14; John 4:42
Carpenter – Mark 6:3	King of Nations – Revelation 15:3	Second Adam – Romans 5:14
Carpenter's Son – Matthew 13:55	King of the Jews – Matthew 2:2	Servant of the Jews – Romans 15:8
Chief Shepherd – 1 Peter 5:4	Lamb of God – John 1:29	Shepherd and Guardian of our souls – 1 Peter 2:25
Chosen One – Luke 23:35	Last Adam – 1 Corinthians 15:45	Slave – Philippians 2:7
Christ – Matthew 16:20	Leader – Matthew 2:6; Hebrews 2:10	Son – Galatians 4:4
Christ Jesus – 1 Timothy 1:15; Colossians 1:1	Leader and Perfector of Faith – Hebrews 12:2	Beloved Son – Colossians 1:13
Christ of God – Luke 9:20	Leader and Savior – Acts 5:31	Firstborn Son – Luke 2:7
Christ the Lord – Luke 2:11	Life – John 14:6; Colossians 3:4	Son of Abraham – Matthew 1:1
Christ who is above all – Romans 9:5	Light – John 1:9; John 12:35	Son of David – Matthew 1:1
Consolation of Israel – Luke 2:25	Light of all – Luke 2:32; John 1:4	Son of God – Luke 1:35
Chief Cornerstone – Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6	Light of the world – John 8:12	Son of Joseph – John 1:45
Dayspring – Luke 1:78	Lion of the tribe of Judah – Revelation 5:5	Son of Man – John 5:27
Deliverer – Romans 11:26	Lord – Luke 1:25	Son of Mary – Mark 6:3
Deliverer from the wrath to come – 1 Thessalonians 1:10	One Lord – Ephesians 4:5	Son of the Blessed One – Mark 14:61
Eldest of many brothers – Romans 8:29	My Lord my God – John 20:28	Son of the Father – 2 John 1:3
Emmanuel – Matthew 1:23	Lord both of the dead and the living – Romans 14:9	Son of the Living God – Matthew 16:16
Faithful and True Witness – Revelation 1:5; 3:14	Lord God Almighty – Revelation 15:3	Son of the Most High – Luke 1:32
Father Forever – Isaiah 9:6	Lord Jesus – Acts 7:59	Son of the Most High God – Mark 5:7
First and Last – Revelation 1:17; 2:8	Jesus is Lord – 1 Corinthians 12:3	Only Son of the Father – John 1:14
Firstborn among many brothers – Romans 8:29	Lord Jesus Christ – Acts 15:11	Source of God's creation – Revelation 3:14
First born from the dead – Revelation 1:5	Lord of all – Acts 10:36	Spiritual Rock – 1 Corinthians 10:4
Firstborn of all creation – Colossians 1:15	Lord of Glory – 1 Corinthians 2:8	Living Stone – 1 Peter 2:4
First Fruits – 1 Corinthians 15:20	Lord of lords – 1 Timothy 6:15	Stone rejected by the builders – Matthew 21:42; 1 Peter 2:8
Friend of tax collectors and sinners – Matthew 11:19	Lord of Peace – 2 Thessalonians 3:16	Stumbling Stone – 1 Peter 2:8
Gate of the sheepfold – John 10:7	The Man – John 19:5	Teacher – Matthew 8:19; Matthew 23:10
Glory – Luke 2:32	Master – Luke 5:5	Testator of the New Covenant – Hebrews 9:16
Good Shepherd – John 10:11; 14	Mediator – 1 Timothy 2:5	True God – 1 John 5:20
Grain of Wheat – John 12:24	Messiah – John 1:41; 4:25	True Vine – John 15:1
Great Shepherd of the sheep – Hebrews 13:20	Mighty God – Isaiah 9:6	The Way the Truth and the Life – John 14:6
Head – Ephesians 4:15	Morning Star – 2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 2:28; Revelation 22:16	The One who is, is was, and who is to come – Revelation 3:7
Head of the Church – Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22	Nazarene – Matthew 2:23	Wisdom of God – 1 Corinthians 1:24
Hidden Manna – Revelation 2:17	Passover – 1 Corinthians 5:7	Wonderful Counselor – Isaiah 9:6
High Priest – Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 7:26	Power and wisdom of God – 1 Corinthians 1:24	Word – John 1:1; 14
He Who Holds of the Keys of David – Revelation 3:7	Power for salvation – Luke 1:69	Word of God – Revelation 19:13
He who is coming amid the clouds – Revelation 1:7	Priest forever – Hebrews 5:6	Word of Life – 1 John 1:1
Holy One – Acts 2:27	Prince of Life – Acts 3:15	
Holy One of God – Mark 1:24	Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6	
Holy Servant – Acts 4:27	Rabboni – John 20:16	