

John 8:56

(1)

Abraham lived about 2000 years before Jesus was born. God appeared to Abraham more than once. You can read an account of one of the times God appeared to Abraham in [Genesis 18:1-33](#). Or, you can listen to it by playing the attached file: *Genesis_18-01_thru_18-33.mp3*.

Think about [John 8:56-57](#).

(Jesus said) "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw [it] and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

- What did Jesus say that Abraham saw?
- How did Abraham feel when he saw Jesus?
- In Genesis 18, when the LORD appeared to Abraham, what happened that would have made Abraham glad?
[Genesis 18:10-11](#) *The LORD said, (to Abraham) "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.*
- What did the Jews understand Jesus to be claiming?
- Why did these Jews have a problem with this claim of Jesus?
- How would you answer the question these Jews asked Jesus?
[John 1:1-2, 14-15](#) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John (the baptist) bore witness about him (Jesus), and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'"*

(2)

Think about [Exodus 3:13-14](#).

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- God told the people of Israel his name, what was it?
 - What do you think; why does God give himself that name?
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(3)

Think about [John 8:58-59](#).

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

- How did Jesus answer when they asked him "Have You seen Abraham?"
 - What do you think Jesus meant by his answer?
 - What is the difference between how Abraham and these Jews felt toward Jesus?
[John 8:39-40, 56](#) *They (the Jews) answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do." ... "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw [it] and was glad."*
 - Why did these Jews want to stone Jesus?
[John 10:31-33](#) *The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."*
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