

Who is Jesus?  
“Who Do You Make Yourself Out To BE?”  
John 8:31-59  
“I Am HE”

**Introduction**

The burden of the gospel of John is to provide a clear and correct understanding of who Jesus is concerning His authority and identity. The two are linked together and tied to the proper understanding of the law and the prophets.

**Theological Context**

Jesus is the Logos 1:1

The Explanation of the God 1:14, 18

The Lamb of God 1:29, 3:16

The Water of Life 4

The Bread of Life 6

The Authority of God 6-7

The Messiah like Moses 6-7 (Deut. 18)

The Teacher of the Law to the teachers of the Law 4, 6-7

The Forgiver of Sins 4,6,7, 8:1-11 (Woman at the well and the Woman caught in adultery)

**Structural Context**

The gospel is a narrative, a story. Stories contain location, temporal indicators, atmosphere, characters, plot, tension, climax, resolution. All of these are used to reveal the structure of a good story. We are looking at a majestic and masterful story that contains all the marks of literary divinity.

**Literary Context**

The unit of thought is seen in the wrapping of the section around Jesus hiding in secret because the Jewish multitude and the religious leaders seeking to kill Jesus. But his hour had not yet come 7:1-2- 8:59

**Cultural Context**

Feast of Booths included a Water celebration, 7:37, Light celebration 8:12 and a Theological affirmation. 8:18,24,28,59 (Isa 44-46 Deut. 32:39)

**Thematic Context**

The crux of the issue in Chapters 7-8 and the entire book for that matter is- What is the authority and identity of Jesus? Hence the issue is seen by two questions that the religious leaders ask: “Where is your father?” (8:19) and “Who are you?” (8:24) Hence, we see 2 sections.

**Exposition 8:12-30**

## Section 1 Issue of Authority :12-20

### The Structure of Section 1

Introduction :12a

Body :13-19

Summary :20

### The Story in Section 1

- I. The Introduction :12a **“Again therefore Jesus spoke to them saying”**
  
- II. The Theme of Authority 12b-19
  - A. Declaration of Jesus  
Witness of the Father  
Witness of Jesus “I am He”
  - B. Doubt of the Leaders  
\*\*\*\*\* “Where is your father? :19
  - C. The Summary: 20  
Location indicator- Timing indicator (Not His hour- 2:4, 7:6, 30 8:20)

## Section 2 Issue of Identity 8:21-30

### The Structure of Section 2

Introduction 21a

Body :21b-29

Summary :30

### The Story of Section 2

- I. The Introduction :21a **“He said therefore again to them...”**
  
  - II. The Theme of Identity
    - A. The Claim of JC :21-24  
“I Am” Ex 3:14 I Am that I Am 8:58 Self and Eternal Existence  
“I Am He”
      1. The Greek Grammar “I (subject) Am (verb) *He*” Implied Predicate Nom
      2. The Cultural Context (Feast of Booths)
        - \* Water Ceremony- The Water of Life 7:37-39 ( John 3, Rev 21:6)
        - \* Light Ceremony- The Light of the World 8:12-13  
Context- OT Pillar of light Ex 13:17-22  
Concept- NT Jesus is the light (John 1:1-2 Light and Life)  
(Rev 22:5 No Sun But the SON for light)
        - \* The Theological Affirmation 8:14
- OT Context  
Living in tent OT reminded them of God in their midst Ex 25-39  
Tabernacle is where God visited the people  
The feast of Booths included reading from texts to honor God and  
remind people of God like at Christmas we sing certain songs / quote certain  
texts Isa 7,9, Matt. 1 Luke 1

In Feast of Tabernacles they quoted certain texts

- Deut 6:4 Shema- "Hear Oh Israel the Lord is our God the Lord is one."
- Psalm 115:9-12 Trust in Lord HE is...He is... HE is...
- Psalm 46 God, God, God He, He, He, I will I Will...
- Isaiah 43:1-13 I, I Am HE
- Isaiah 46:8-9 I am God and there is no one like me
- Deut 32:39 High point in Song of Moses  
"I I He" Ani Ani Hu "I, I (AM) He" and there is no God before me."

2 pronouns (no verb) אֲנִי אֱ־הוּא Deut 32:39

### NT Context

By the first century Ani Hu was the all-inclusive summary of Gods self revelatory declaration.

Rabbi Hillel "When Ani is here all is here. When Ani is not here who is here." At the Feast of Tab. The priest would chant and sing out Ani Hu

### B. The Clarification of the Leaders :25a

\*\*\*\*\*"Who are you? :25-28

### C. The Conclusion of Jesus :25b

- 1- When you lift up...3:14 12:32
- 2- The Son of Man 14x in John 1:51,3:13,14 5:27, 6:27,53,62, 8:28  
9:35, (\*\*12:23, 34 x2 13:31) \*\*See Dan 7:13 and Mk 14:21, 62
- 3- "Then you will know"
- 4- "I am He" :28

### III. The Summary:30

Many came to "believe in Him" ( 1:12, 2:23, see 3:16, 5:24, 12:42, 20:31)

ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν

## **Freedom Is From the Father John 8:31-59**

The final section of this chapter involves two topics and some tremendous tension.

### I. The Topic of Freedom 8:31b-38

**They Answered :33**

#### A. Declaration of Jesus :31b-32

Who is Jesus talking to? The pharisees who believed in :30

What is the spiritual state of those who he is talking too? Believers

What is He inviting them to do? (John 14-15 Abide)

#### B. Debate of Jesus with the Leaders :33-38

Who is speaking and what is their spiritual state? IS it the same people as in :31-32?

Who is speaking in :33? The believers as :32 or whole group? (See John 12:42, 19:38)  
Who is Jesus speaking to in :34--Salve and Free :33-36. (See :45 do not believe)

Transition- the Father :38 then into :39ff

## II. The Topic of the Father :39-57

## They Answered :39

### A. Declaration of Jesus

These people cannot hear Jesus's word. :43

These people did not believe Jesus :45,46 (The people in :31-32 did believe in Him)

Devil is a liar, murder, accuser, adversary :44 (I Peter 5:8 Rev 12:10)

These religious leaders are of the Devil- their father- origin (Eph 2:1)

They are not of God :47

### B. Debate of the Leaders

They declare-Abraham is our father not the devil :39,41

They decide- Jesus is crazy :48, 52

### C. Declaration of Jesus :54-56

The glory of the Father (see John 17)

NB- As we get to the punch line of chapter 7-8: Remember the context

Feast of Booths-

Water ceremony (7:37) Light ceremony (8:12) Theological affirmation Deut 32:39

Now Jesus pulls it all together and they get it!!!

8:18-19 "I am He---"Where is your father?"

8:24-25 "I am He---"Who are you?"

8:52-53 "If anyone keeps my word he will never taste death.--"Who do you make yourself out to be?" The Topic- Freedom- free from Death \*Heb 2:9,14-15, \*Rev 2:18

## III. The Tension of Theology :57-59

### A. Jesus- Declaration - I AM HE :58 Ex 3:14 Εγω (I) Ειμε (I am)

Isa 41:4, 43:11-13, 46:8-9, Deut. 32:39

### B. Leaders-Destruction - Kill Him :59

(This is a wrap up of how it all started 7:1- Jews seeking to kill Him)

These men and our world today are totally confused & corrupt concerning the Identity and Authority of the Christ.

Truth to Ponder

Jesus said if they hated Him they would hate His disciples-That is us! 16:2, Acts 7:57-60

The religious leaders today and their (Moslem) multitudes are coming for us for they hate Jesus and His followers. So do the progressive liberals. Are you ready to make a defense of the hope that is in you? I Peter 3:15