

FOR
TEENS
AGES
15-17

SENIOR HIGH BIBLE CLASS

SPRING QUARTER | MARCH | APRIL | MAY 2024



Senior High Bible Class

SPRING QUARTER

Jesus Is God

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LOOKING AHEAD

The theme this quarter is "Jesus Is God." Jesus made this very claim when He said, "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58; lesson 1).

We will look at the outward demonstration of His deity in His power over death (lessons 2-5), His power over the elements, and His power to heal (lessons 6-10). He turned water into wine, calmed a raging sea, healed the disabled, and commanded demons.

The Pharisees were unable to accept who Jesus was, so they failed to accept His mission. Who gave this man authority to forgive sins?

Jesus was greater than Abraham and superior to angels, Moses, and the temporary Levitical priesthood (lesson 11).

Jesus is worthy because He is the divine Son of God and the Lamb of God who takes away sin. He is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy from beginning to end (lessons 12-13).

—Brian Burke.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

JOHN 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Jesus' Claim to Deity

Lesson Text: John 8:31-38, 48-56, 58-59

Related Scriptures: Deuteronomy 13:6-11; Romans 6:15-23;
I John 2:1-6, 22-25; II John 1:9-11

TIME: A.D. 29

PLACE: Jerusalem

GOLDEN TEXT—"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

ANALYZING

In this week's Scripture text, we learn about the opponents of Jesus, who asserted their status as Abraham's descendants and rejected Jesus' claims about His status as the Messiah. We also find the Saviour's declaration that He honors His Father, knows Him intimately, and eternally exists with Him. As we will see, Jesus' testimony about Himself remains true and deserves our full acceptance.

1. Antagonists' claims about themselves (John 8:31-38). In verses 30 and 31, two slightly different Greek phrases are both translated "believed." The Greek says that some believed *in* Him (vs. 30), while others *believed* Him (vs. 31). However, it is just as likely that both verses refer to the same people whose belief in Jesus was not yet proven.

Verses 12-30 focus on the validity of Jesus' testimony. After silencing His opponents, Jesus addressed the listeners who were professing some faith in Him. He left these people little doubt as to what He expected

from them. He taught that discipleship must begin with belief but that real belief will be evidenced by continuing obedience to Him and His teachings. Only then can a person know the truth and experience true freedom.

In contrast, possessing surface-level information can never lead to the same result, regardless of how scintillating that knowledge might be. Furthermore, there is no spiritual freedom in possessing truth in an abstract sense. The focus in the fourth Gospel is on the Person and work of Christ. Only faith in Him can deliver people from the darkness of sin.

The listeners found Jesus' statement about being set free offensive. Their proud spirit shows through in their retort that they had never been enslaved to anyone. They blindly ignored Israel's time in Egypt and Babylon, and the domination by Rome at that very moment.

Perhaps this was because the Jews saw themselves as never having adopted the gods of their captors. A good example was their revolt against their Greek rulers, which began in 167 B.C. when an altar dedicated to Zeus was erected in the temple and