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John 8

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 8.

Topics.

- A woman caught in adultery is brought before Jesus.
- I am the light of the world whoever follows me will have the light of life.
- You judge according to the flesh.
- You are from below; I am from above.
- The truth will set you free.
- When you have lifted up the Son of Man.
- If Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- The Jews accuse Jesus of having a demon.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter, the Jews Feast of Booths (also called the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering) was at hand, Jesus went to the Feast on his own because the Jews were seeking to kill him. On the last day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Many believed in Jesus because of the signs he did and the Pharisees could not arrest him because their arresting offices would not lay a hand on Jesus.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

JOHN 8:1-11

A woman caught in Adultery is brought before Jesus.

- **John 8:1-11:** but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶This they (Scribes and Pharisees) (v3) said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

The previous chapter ended with the chief priests and Pharisees seeking to arrest Jesus at the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. They wanted to have him put to death but their officers would not lay a hand on Jesus. Jesus knowing the religious authorities where seeking to murder him left the city and went to the Mount of Olives which brings us to verse one of this chapter.

The following story is absolutely amazing when it is remembered that the scribes and the Pharisees are seeking to murder Jesus it shows how blind people can be to their own sin. Jesus returns to the temple in Jerusalem and while teaching the scribes and the Pharisees (no-doubt by force) bring a woman who was caught in adultery into the assembly. The prideful and enormously hypocritical religious leaders' true motive in this action is to trap Jesus so they can condemn him and have him put to death. The Scriptures tell us they were regularly holding meetings to plot how they could have Jesus killed so it quite likely this is one of their plots and that they had spies out looking for such a woman to use for this very purpose. Remember the Old Covenant was not done away with until Jesus death and resurrection so he is still under Moses Law. The scribes and Pharisees hoping to trap Jesus tell him this woman should be stoned, but Jesus is the master of the Pharisees deceptive traps. Almost every time the religious authorities try to trap him with questions he brilliantly asks them a question that puts them in a position that if they answer they condemn themselves, he is the master of debate, he never enters into a quarrel or aggression to prove himself he simply asks a question that his accusers cannot answer. His question to the scribes and Pharisees here is fabulous he simply bends down and wrote with his finger on the ground then stood up and said, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." Then bent down and continued writing on the ground and the crowd went away one by one until Jesus was left alone with the woman and asks her, "Has no one condemned you?" Then tells her, "Neither do I condemn you go, and sin no more."

The wonder and beauty of God's word: the words, "Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger," Immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible student back to Mount Sinai and the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, thus it is quite likely Jesus was writing in the ground the Commandments of God (Exod. 31:18) (Deut. 9:10).

JOHN 8:12-20

I am the Light of the World whoever follows me will have the Light of Life.

- **John 8:12-20:** Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." ¹⁹They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." ²⁰These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

NOTE: Jesus spoke these words in the treasury to the scribes, Pharisees and the Jews with them as he taught in the temple (v13, 20, 31, 37, 59).

I am the light of the world: light means, "To Shine," figuratively it carries the idea of showing or making known one's thoughts it is a symbol of righteousness and all that is good whereas darkness symbolises wickedness and all that is evil. Christ is the pure light in every sense he was full of grace, kindness, compassion, love and lived the perfect life without sin and his word exposés wrong motives and sinful thoughts. The words:

- Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Means whoever hears the words of Christ and does them will not have anything to do with wickedness or be tempted by it, because they will have the "Light of Life" referring to Christ and his words of wisdom, insight and good judgment and therefore will know in any given situation what the right thing to do is.

Two or three witnesses: the Pharisees words, "You are bearing witness about yourself therefore your testimony is not true." Is based on the fact that it is an Old and New Testament principal that everything should be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses

(Deut. 17:2-6) (Num. 35:30) (Matt. 18:16) (2 Cor. 13:1)
(1 Tim. 5:19) (Heb. 10:28).

Jesus agrees with them that it is written in their Law that the testimony of two men is true (v17), but then tells them that his testimony is true and the Father who sent him also witnesses of him. God did this at Jesus Water Baptism and the Mount of Transfiguration by saying: -

- This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well (Matt. 3:17) (Matt. 17:5)

And Peter wrote, when Jesus received honour and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory:

- This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (2 Peter 1:17).

Added to these witnesses are his miracles which authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world. No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following majestic words:

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matt. 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isaiah 29:1-24) (Isaiah 35:1-10) (Isaiah 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did.

And Jesus when speaking to the Jews said:

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard. (John 5:36-37).

You do not know where I came from or where I am Going: Jesus words, "You do not know where I come from" refer to his origin (i.e., his birth), Jesus is saying that they do not know who his Father is because they do not know the origin of his birth and the words, "Or where I am going" refer to his ascension to the right hand side of God in heaven.

You judge according to the flesh: the Pharisees judge according to the flesh refers to two things:

1. According to what they see, (i.e., by people's attendance at the temple and the holy days, the feasts and their offerings etc.).
2. According to people's birth and the status they were born into (i.e., whether they were descendants of Abraham or not).

The Jews considered their race to be the holy race with God and believed the Gentiles were born in sin and viewed them an unclean race without God. In contrast to this Jesus says he judges no one. Early in this book Jesus said:

- God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:17).

Jesus judges no one because:

- Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God (John 3:18).

In a court of law when a person is found guilty and sentenced to death it is pointless to continue to judge and condemn them, thus the reason Christ did not come to condemn but to save. If we are following Christ our focus and energy should not be on judging but on trying to save which involves love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and grace.

His time had not yet come: the words "No one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come" means that God had a specific timeframe for Christ's life on earth, not only was his ministry in the eternal plans and purposes of God before the world began, but so to was his brutal and bloody death. No-one who belongs to Christ and who is in a suffering situation should ever think it is because God does not love them, if this was the case it could be said, "God hated his only begotten Son" and we know that is a ridiculous statement.

You know neither me nor my Father: the Jews thought Jesus was the son of Mary and Joseph, they believed Joseph was his father many times they asked him who his father is? Surely if Joseph were Christ's father, he would have given an honest and simple answer to their question by simply admitting that Joseph was his father and put an end to their confusion, but he never does. Jesus always points to his Father being God when confronted with the question who is your father or whose son are you? And never at any time throughout the Scriptures implies or ever encourages anyone to think he is the son of Joseph, but rather gives them answers they can't understand and makes statement like, "I am the bread of life which came down from heaven," Which angers them even more.

JOHN 8:21-36

You are from Below; I am from Above.

- **John 8:21-36:** So, he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." ²²So said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" ²³He said to them "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." ²⁵So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." ²⁷They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸So Jesus said to them "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him³⁰As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, "You will become free?" ³⁴Jesus answered them "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

NOTE: Jesus spoke these words in the treasury to the scribes, Pharisees and the Jews with them as he taught in the temple (v13, 20, 31, 37, 59).

You are of this world; I am not of this world: these words of Jesus, refer to the following two things:

1. The origin of mankind (i.e., our birth), the human race is a descendant of Adam who was made of the dust of the earth so everyone born of a human father is in this sense of the earth and worldly minded it means the same as, "You are from below," meaning from the earth.
2. That mankind is of the world because they are driven by, self, ego, pride, greed and power etc., contrasted to Christ who is, "from above" meaning he is born of God and lived not for self but, for God and for others showing love, compassion and mercy etc., and ultimately laid his life down for them.

It is in this sense Jesus is from above. It is because the Jews are of the world that Jesus says they will die in their sin and that is why they cannot go where Christ is going (i.e., eternal glory).

You will seek me, but you will die in your sin: Jesus words, "You will seek me, but you will still die in your sin." Seem to contradict his words, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7) (Luke 11:9) but Jesus words to the Jews are not about truly seeking him by faith, but searching towns and cities to find him after his resurrection.

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples: amongst the Jewish crowd there were Jews who believed in Christ (v31) Jesus tells them that, "If they Abide in his word they are truly his disciples" This does not mean that they are to sit at home all day and become a Bible encyclopaedia, abiding in Christs words is about doing them, (i.e., it is about showing the fruits of the Spirit, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, grace and love etc., to all people).

The truth will set you free: Jesus statement, "The Truth will set you Free" means it will set you free from the condemnation of sin, the truth in this context is the Good News of the Gospel which states:

- He that hears Christ's word, and believes on him that sent him, has everlasting life and will not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (John 5:24) (Romans 5:16, 18) (Romans 8:1).

When you have lifted up the Son of man: how amazing is Jesus statement, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man" Jesus right at the beginning of his ministry is fully aware that the Jews are going to brutally whip him, cruelly torture him and painfully nail him to the cross, but those who do believe in him will know that he truly is the Christ the Son of God. The words, "The Father has not left him alone" refer to his ministry on earth and his resurrection from the tomb to the right-hand side of his heavenly Father.

We are offspring of Abraham: because the Jews were not slaves of any nation and believed that by being descendants of Abraham they were right with God (v33) and therefore didn't need saving they had no idea of what Jesus meant by becoming free so he makes it very clear that he is not talking about being slaves to humans but slaves to sin.

If Son sets you free, you will be free Indeed: Jesus words:

- Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin (v34).

Refers to us all, we know this because John says:

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

Jesus words:

- The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever (v35).

Means Jesus lives forever whereas will die because we are sinners, but the Good News is that the Son sets us free from eternal death that is why Jesus says:

- You will be free indeed (v36).

NOTE: Jesus said, "I always do the things that are pleasing to the Father," (v29) this is how we abide in Christ it is living with the same attitude as he did.

JOHN 8:37-43

Jesus Father is God.

- **John 8:37-43:** I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father ³⁹They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, ⁴⁰but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God ⁴¹You are doing what your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God ⁴²Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

The Jews claim Abraham as their Father: the Jews saw Abraham as their father because they come from Abraham's seed line and even though some of the Jews would be through the woman of Abraham's seed line they still considered Abraham as their father. The same principal applies to Jesus being born of David and David being called his father. Mary was of the line of David through Nathan his son it is in this sense that Jesus is spoken of as being from David's loins or his seed or from the house of David (John 8:39). The Jews in the Old Testament killed God's prophets and now they want to kill God's Son. When Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You Jews do what you have heard from your father," (the father he is referring to is the devil) (v44). The Jews respond to this by saying "We were not born of sexual immorality," indirectly accusing Jesus of being born out of wedlock, (they had obviously done the maths and worked out that Mary had conceived prior to her marriage to Joseph). Jesus words, "I came from God" means he was born of God. The Jews cannot understand what Jesus is saying because they cannot accept that he is the Son of God.

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JOHN 8:44-55

The Jews Father is the Devil.

- **John 8:44-55:** You are of your father the devil (diabolos) and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." ⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" (daimon) ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon (daimon) but I honour my Father, and you dishonour me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you if anyone

keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! (daimon) Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you but I do know him and I keep his word.

NOTE: Jesus is still speaking in the treasury to the scribes, Pharisees and the Jews with them as he taught in the temple (v13, 20, 31, 37, 59).

Jesus tells the Jews that their father is the devil and their will is to do their father's will who has always been a murderer from the beginning (most likely referring to Cain murdering his brother Abel) and who has nothing to do with the truth because his character is full of lies. All the wickedness within the human heart is personified as the devil, we know this because Matthew and Mark tell us:

- Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander (Matt 15:19) (Mark 7:21).

And James says:

- Each person is tempted when they are lured and enticed by their own desire" (James 1:14) and adds that "Quarrels, fights, murder and coveting are caused by our own passions and desires that are within us (James 4:1-17).

Thus, the devil is the personification of everything that is opposed to the God and opposed to the fruits of the Spirit that dwells in the human heart. For further information see the title:

- Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Jews accuse Jesus of having a demon: Jesus challenges the Jews to convict him of sin, but of course they can't, but because he said, they are not of God and they do not know God and called God his Father and said, "If anyone keeps his words they will never taste death." The Jews were furious they point out that Abraham and the prophets died, and then ask Jesus who does he think he is to make such a claim and by so doing make himself greater than their Father Abraham so they accuse him of having a demon.

NOTICE: Jesus says if a person is of God, they will honour the Father (v49), hear His words (v47) and keep Jesus words (v51) the Jews did none of these.

JOHN 8:56-59

Father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my Day.

- **John 8:56-59:** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Before: (prin) (pro) from Strong's Concordance can mean in front of or prior to, figuratively it carries the idea of being superior to or above another.

The phrase, Jesus day could begin from his birth or his water baptism though to his return and through to eternity. Obviously, Abraham was not alive in any of these time periods to see Jesus day, but Jesus is not telling the Jews that Abraham literally saw him, but referring to the fact God had promised Abraham that from his seed would come a King to rule the world. Jesus words:

- Father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day.

Mean Abraham by faith saw the day when his seed (the Christ) would come. Since the Jews highly esteem Abraham and hold him up as their father they were angry because Jesus was making himself greater than Abraham, thus Jesus was saying to the Jews even Abraham by faith saw his coming and his appearing and he was excited and full of joy whereas they in contrast want to kill him, the promised seed of Abraham. It is recorded in the Old Testament that:

- Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple (Isaiah 6:1).

This is a vision it is in this same way that Abraham saw Jesus day and rejoiced. It is not surprising that the Jews did not understand what Jesus was saying since they have not understood anything he said in this entire conversation.

NOTE: some teachers in certain Christian circles use Jesus words, "Before Abraham was, I am," to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God, this is reading far more into Jesus words than what is intended. When a verse seems obscure or difficult to harmonize with the majority of Scriptures it should always be remembered that the rule of good Bible study is to always allow the meaning and teaching of the very clear Scriptures to supersede and take priority over the few that may seem to be obscure. A single verse and especially a single phrase should never be allowed to overthrow the very clear teachings of the many other Scriptures concerning the same topic or overthrow the context of the entire chapter or the overall teachings of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. In summing it all up Jesus words, "Before Abraham was I am" mean the following two things:

1. Before the foundations of the earth and before Abraham existed, God purposed in his eternal mind that His Son would not only be the center of mankind's salvation, but also the center of Gods eternal plans for all eternity.
2. Though God has highly exalted Abraham as the father of faith Jesus is superior in position and importance and in every other way to him.

A FINAL NOTE

Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a stronghold on traditional Christian teaching should anyone reading this be shaken by the statement Jesus is not saying that he is God, consider the following:

There is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life.

- Jesus said, “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).
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For further information see the following titles:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).
 - I AM and Jesus statement: Before Abraham was I Am.
 - Both titles are in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace