

# **I Am From Above**

**BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:**

**John 8:31-38, 48-59**

**BIBLE TRUTH:**

**God came in the person of Jesus Christ to set us free. Matt. 1:20-23,**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

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.

**Lesson Aim**

**That we learn how to live our lives free from sin and its powerful influences. Often we know in our minds how we should live a certain life-style, yet we constantly fall prey to temptations and the influences of the world around us.**

**This should not be the case for the believer. 2Cor. 7:1,**

**Rom. 6:6,, 1John 3:8-9**

# Introduction

- When man fell, sin and the serpent attached itself to the nature of man. As fallen human beings, we are constantly troubled by sin, blindness, and death. Blindness, darkness, and death come from sin. Gen. 6:5-8
- If God was going to solve all the negative problems of man; sin, blindness and death, He had to become a man Himself. Heb.2:9-10,14-18
- As the Son of God, Jesus could not deal with our sins nor interfere with the affairs of man apart from man; Why? because He had given man dominion in this earth realm and would have violated his own integrity to do so, however as the Son of Man he became a fit candidate. Gen. 1:26, Heb. 10:5-14
- Religion cannot set people free from sin nor its penalty. Only a blood covenant relationship with Christ can neutralize the powerful influences of sin in our nature. Rom. 7:18, Heb. 9:22, 26, Gal. 2:20,
- However, Gods chosen people, had the wrong concept. They did not see God Himself in the Son and as the Spirit wanting to come into man to be his life and his everything. Rev. 3:20, Col. 1:27
- God's people missed this mark, by following external regulations, laws, and other good points, and putting them together to make a religion to save themselves. Rom 3:20-23, 2:29, 7:6, Rom. 5:9-10
- Only Jesus as the Son of Man, lifted up on the cross for the serpent-poisoned people, can do what religion and law cannot do. Rom. 5:21, Num. 21:5-9 , John 12:31-39

# What Is Required To Be A Disciple?

- John 8:31-32 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.
- Jesus is testing their commitment. The first step in being a disciple is believing all that Jesus said and appropriating it to yourself. To believe is more than believing the fact that Jesus is the savior of the world. That knowledge must be accompanied with a life commitment to his Word. It means to cast yourself upon Christ as your Lord and Savior. Rev. 2:7, Ps. 119:105, 2Tim. 2:15
- The result of such activity results in freedom. Freedom from fear because you will never have to walk alone. Heb. 13:5-6
- Freedom from self. Many of us recognize we are our own worst enemy. We cannot change ourselves on our own, we need Jesus to set us free from ourselves. Rom 7:18, Gal. 2:20
- We experience freedom from other people. Many of us suffer from what other people may think or say about us. Our neighbors voice sounds louder in our ears than the voice of God. John 12:42-43
- Discipleship brings freedom from sin and death. There is many men who had come to the stage of life, not because he wants to, but because he could not help himself. His sins, his habits, his weaknesses have so mastered him that try as he may, the chains of sin binds us to our sins. Discipleship breaks the chains which bind us to our, and enables us to be the person we know we ought to be. Rom 8:1-3, Rom. 6:13-14, 22

# Self Deception

- [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.
- This discussion of freedom annoyed the Jew and this is their first step of rejecting him. They claimed they had never been slaves to any man. This was not true, they had been captives in Egypt, Babylon, and at this time they were subjects of the Romans. John 1:11-14 Acts 1:6
- The Jews put a great value on freedom which they held to be the birthright of every Jew. It was part of their creed that no Jew, however poor, will be allowed to descend to the level of a slave. Lev. 25:39-42
- But it was another slavery of which Jesus was speaking. Everyone, He said who commits sin is the slave of sin. Everyone who practices sin is a slave. Socrates had demanded; How can you call a man free when his pleasures rule over him? Paul later was to thank God that the Christians was freed from slavery to sin. Rom 6:17-20
- There is something very interesting here. Sometimes when a man is rebuked for doing something which is wrong, or when he is warned against such a thing, his answer is I will do whatever I like. Surely I can do what I will with my own life. But the whole point of life is that man who sins does not do what he likes; he does what sin likes.
- A man can let a habit, a pleasure, a weakness so dominate him that he is powerless to break away from it, making him a slave. 1John 3:8-9

# What Is The Difference Between A Son And A Slave

- [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.
- Now Jesus makes a subtle threat, but a threat which the listening Jews would well understand. If you are a Jew, the word slave reminds him of something. In any household there was a difference between the slave and the son. They both are in the same house and serve the same master. However, the son is a permanent dweller in the household; he is heir of all, nothing can put him out. But the slave owns nothing and could be ejected at any time. Gal. 4:1-7
- In effect Jesus was saying to the Jews. You think that you are sons in Gods house; you think that nothing can ever banish you from God. You, by your conduct, are making yourselves slaves; and the slave can be ejected from the masters presence at any time; Here was a subtle threat. Why would Jesus threaten the Jews with this statement?
- Number one, they are in the possess of rejecting Christ the only means of salvation. Number two, It is a terrible thing to trade on the mercy and the favor of God and that is what the Jews were doing. There is a warning here for more than the Jews. If you were on trail for being a Christian, would their be enough evidence in your life to convict you???

# Religious Folk Will Kill You

- [37] I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.
- The Jews believed that Abraham had gained such merit from his goodness that this merit was sufficient, not only for himself, but for all his descendants also. Abraham's goodness, so they believed, had been so great that he had built up a kind of treasury of merit on which all his descendants could draw. Quite literally the Jew believed that he was safe because he was a descendant of Abraham. Gen 17:10
- There are those who still try to live on the name of great parent or grandparent or some great person in their family. At some time in the history of their family someone performed some really outstanding service to Church or state, and ever since they had claimed a special place because of that work which they had nothing to do with.
- Jesus was quite blunt about this. He declared in effect that the real descendant of Abraham was the man who acted in the way in which Abraham had acted. That is is exactly what John the Baptist had said before. Matt. 3:9-10
- It was not flesh and blood which made a man a descendant of Abraham, we become Sons of Abraham by faith in Jesus. Gal. 3:7
- In this particular matter Jesus tied it down to one thing They are seeking a way to kill Him; that is precisely the opposite of what Abraham did. When a messenger from God came to Abraham, Abraham welcome him with all eagerness and reverence. Gen. 18:1-8

# Who Is The Baby Daddy?

- **John 8:38- I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.**
- Here is another subtle claim of Jesus. By the very calling to mind of the old story in Genesis 18, Jesus is saying that He too is the messenger of God. Then He makes that claim explicit; “I speak what I have seen in the presence of the Father.” The fundamental thing about Jesus is that He brings to us, not His own opinions, but a message from God. Jesus was not simply a man telling other men what He thought about things; He was the Son of God telling men what God thought about things. At best men can only tell other men the truth as they see it; Jesus told men the truth as God sees it.
- Then at the end of this passage there comes a shattering statement. You do the works of your father. He had just said that Abraham is not their father. Who then is their father? For a moment the full impact is held back. It comes to verse 44. their father is the devil. These who had gloried in the claim that they are the children of Abraham are now confronted with the truth that they are children of the devil. Their works had revealed their true sonship, for man can only prove his kinship to God by his conduct. John 14:15, James 2:14

# They Truth Hurts?

- 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.
- The Jews were so angered in what Jesus said, “You of your father the devil.” They accused him of being a Samaritan and being possessed with the devil. To be called a Samaritan was to be considered an enemy to the Jews and heretic to the law. A heretic is a professed believer who maintains religious opinions contrary to those accepted by his or her church or rejects doctrines prescribed by that church.
- Jesus response to everything he was accused of except being a Samaritan. He said I am not a devil nor a heretic. What would we brand Jesus with if he returned to this world and the church today?
- Jesus answer was that so far from being a servant of the devil, His one aim was to honour God, while the whole conduct of the Jews was a continual dishonoring of God. He says in effect It is not I who have a devil; it is you. It is not my work which is essentially evil; it is yours;
- Jesus continues I am not looking for honour in this world; I know that I will be insulted and rejected and crucified. But there is One who will one day assess things at their true value; there is One who will on day assign to men their true honour; that One is God. 1Peter 2:21-23



# What An Awesome Claim

- [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
- Jesus continues to make even greater claims. Here he makes the claim that if anyone keeps His words, he will never die. That statement was a shock to the Jews because of what Zechariah said. Zech. 1:5
- The Jews could not comprehend what Jesus was saying because they thought he was talking about physical life and death. However Jesus meant for the man who fully accepted Him, there was no such thing as death. The true believer does not go from life to death but from life to life. Death only brings the believer face to face with God. 2Cor. 5:6-8
- Jesus goes on to make another point all true honour must come from God. it is not difficult to honor oneself. It is very easy to put the stamp of approval on yourself. It not difficult to gain the honor of men.. But the real honor is the honor which only eternity can reveal; and the verdicts of eternity are not the verdicts of time. John 5:44

# To Know God Is To Know Jesus

- : [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.
- Jesus continues, He says he knows God as no one else ever has know Him or ever will know Him and to admit to anything less would make him a liar. The only way to know the heart and mind of God is through Jesus Christ. With our own minds we can reach fragments of knowledge about God. Only in Jesus Christ can we know what God is like.
- Jesus claims He keeps Gods word. To look at Jesus is to be able to say this is how God wishes me to live. To look at his life is to say this is what serving God is like. In Jesus Christ we see what God want us to know and what God wants us to be.

# Jesus Is The Messiah

John 8: [56] Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? [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.

Abraham saw this day and rejoiced. To make that statement to a Jew, Jesus was implying that he was the Messiah.

Though the Jew had some knowledge of Abraham's vision they chose to literally interpret what Jesus had just said and not see the spiritual implications of his statement.

So their response of Jesus being less than fifty years old indicated they didn't have a clue as to what Jesus was saying or refused to accept the fact that Jesus was the Messiah. They saw Jesus as a priest or Levite but not as Messiah or King. Num. 4:1-3, John 19:19-22

Then Jesus makes the greatest claim of all, before Abraham was, I Am. Which meant that he was timeless. It didn't mean that Jesus the man was not born into the world and had always existed. It meant there is only one person in the universe who is timeless. There is only person who is above and beyond time. and who can always say, I Am. And that one person is God. He is saying as the writer of the Hebrew put it more simply, that He is the same yesterday today and forever. Heb 13:8

- Everyone has a temper. If you do not have a temper, you are not a human being. A table has no temper. Regardless of how much you pound on a table, it will never lose its temper because it has no temper to lose. But how about you? Every person has a certain amount of temper, and this temper is the first expression of our serpentine nature. The primary expression of Satan in us is our temper. Whenever a person loses his temper, he has the appearance of a serpent. No one looks like an angel when he loses his temper. When you lose your temper at your wife, you look like a demon. When a kind mother loses her temper toward her child, the child will be frightened because his mother looks like a demon. When we lose our temper, the serpentine nature is expressed. Our temper bothers us very much; it besets us all the time. During the fifty years that I have been a seeking Christian, nothing has bothered me more than my temper. How difficult it is to be freed from our temper! From my experience I can testify that since the day the Lord Jesus came into me He has been my life. This life has been shining within me continually. The more Jesus shines within me, the more I am set free from my temper. Sometimes when I was losing my temper, this light shone strongly. Have you not experienced this as well? While you are losing your temper at your wife, the light shines. The more unbelievers lose their temper, the more temper they have to lose. However, when we, the seeking Christians, begin to lose our temper, we find that we have less and less temper to lose. Sometimes a brother or sister is stopped by the inward shining while he is losing his temper. Something inward shines over him, killing the serpentine nature. After fifty years of experience, I can say that now it is difficult for me to lose my temper. For fifty years the heavenly radium has been killing the serpentine nature of temper.
- Radium treatment is given for certain diseases. The patient sits under the radium, and its rays are transfused into him. We have a heavenly radium within us, and this radium kills the serpentine nature. This is the light of life which sets us free from the slavery of sin.
- **2. By the Son as Reality**
- We are set free from sin not only by the shining of the light of life, but also by the Son as reality (8:32, 36). The reality is not the so-called truth of doctrine; it is the reality of the truth which is the Lord Himself (14:6; 1:14, 17). In 8:32 we are told that "the reality shall set you free." In 8:36 we are told that "the Son shall set you free." This proves that the Son, the Lord Himself, is the reality. Since the Lord is the embodiment of God (Col. 2:9), He is the reality of what God is. Hence, reality is the very divine element of God realized by us. When the Lord as the great I Am comes into us as life, He shines within us as light, which brings the divine element as reality into us. This reality, which is the divine element imparted into us and realized by us, sets us free from the bondage of sin by the divine life as the light of man. The Son of God as the very fullness of the Godhead is the reality. While He shines in us as life, He works His reality, His divine element, into our being. This is not merely shining; it is a shining that brings the reality of what God is into our being. Eventually, day after day, and year after year, this divine element will be accumulated in our being. Thus, within our being there will be a certain amount of divine reality. No one can deny this.
- I have been a seeking Christian for over fifty years. I do not say that I cannot fall or be stumbled. Perhaps tomorrow I shall be stumbled by my dear wife or by one of the brothers. Nevertheless, regardless of how much I may be stumbled, the divine element that has been wrought into my being during the past fifty years can never be lost. Even if I stumble, I will stumble with a great deal of the divine element.
- By the shining of the inner life and by the working of the divine element in our very being, we are set free from the slavery of sin. This resembles the medical treatment designed to cure diseases in our blood. It is very difficult to eliminate the disease from our blood. We need medicine. If I take the medicine several times a day, the medicine will, on the one hand, destroy the germs and, on the other hand, add a positive element into my body organically. This positive element will supply nourishment to the tissues of my body. Eventually, the disease will be swallowed up. By such a metabolic process, the old element is discharged and replaced by a new element. This is the way that the divine life sets us free from the bondage of sin. It is not a matter of reckoning yourself dead according to Romans 6. Many of us have tried this in the past and found that it does not work. No, you must experience the living Jesus in you as the shining light and as the divine element that works inwardly. Eventually, the heavenly, divine element will be added into your being. This is our salvation.
- How can the Lord keep us from sinning anymore? How can He set us free from the slavery and bondage of sin? Simply because the great I Am has become our life, and this life is the light of life. When we received Him, He became our life, and this life becomes the very light that brings us out of the darkness of sin. Only the light of life can set us free from the bondage and slavery of sin. The Lord could forgive us because He is the Son of Man who died for us by being lifted up on the cross. Now the Lord can deliver us and set us free from the bondage of sin because He is the great I Am living within us. He now becomes the life that is the light within us. This light of life can set us free from the bondage of sin and deliver us out of the darkness of sin. We must realize, therefore, that we are set free only by Christ becoming our life and light. Furthermore, this life and light will also bring us into the truth, that is, into the reality. After you receive and enjoy the Lord Jesus as your life and light, you will find that this very divine life and light will bring you into reality. After you are brought into reality, you will be delivered from falsehood. The reason why people easily commit sin is that they were born in falsehood. Since they were born of the devil, the enemy of God, they were all born liars. The devil, the father of liars, is the greatest liar. Hence, the father of liars has brought all sinners into the darkness of falsehood. The devilish life has brought them into darkness, and darkness has brought them into falsehood. Thus, it is very easy for people to commit sin as long as they are in falsehood. But, praise the Lord, we now have received the Lord within us as our life and light. This life and light bring us into reality, which will free us from the bondage and slavery of sin.
- In this passage there is the comparison between two fathers. One is the father of liars, the father of falsehood, murder, and adultery. Originally, we were born of this father. We should not think that we were merely born of our parents. On the one hand, we were born of our parents, but on the other hand, we were born of the evil father of lies. He is the greatest liar, and we, the smaller liars, were all born liars. "You are of your father the devil" (8:44). We were born of this father of lies. Consequently, we were born sons of lies. We should not think that we were born Americans or Chinese, for each one of us was born a liar.
- Praise the Lord that there is another father, the heavenly Father, the Father of light and truth. He is the great I Am, who became incarnated as a man. As the Son of Man, He was lifted up on the cross for our sin and died for us. Now, if we believe in Him and in what He has done for us, He, as the great I Am, the Father of life, will come into us to be our life and light. Then He will deliver us from falsehood into reality and from darkness into the kingdom of light, where we will be set free from the bondage and slavery of sin.
-

- The Lord not only gives us life, but He also enters into us as our life. Satan's subtlety was not only to cause us to do something wrong; it was to inject himself into us. Thus, sin is no longer merely objective, an outward wrongdoing. Sin is in the very subjective nature of our being. It is no longer outside of us; it is inside of us. It has even become our very self. It is in our nature. Therefore, anything that is outside of our nature cannot help us in dealing with the sin that is in our nature. We need another life to come into us. In human history, there is only one Person who is able to come into us and be our life to encounter the serpentine nature within us. Confucius or Plato cannot do it. The only One who can do it is Jehovah, the great I Am. Only He Himself can come into us as life to counteract the serpentine nature within us. Our slavery is not an outward thing; it is inward, even in our nature. We need another life, a stronger, richer, higher life, to set us free from this slavery. Only the Lord can be such a life, and He truly is such a life because He is the divine life. The divine life is higher than the human life. It is also higher than the satanic life. When this divine life comes into us it defeats the serpentine life and nature.
- The Lord is able to save man from the result of sin, which is death (8:24, 51-52). Once sin has been dealt with, spontaneously the result of sin also will be removed. The religion of law is unable to do this, for it belongs to the tree of knowledge resulting in death (Gen. 2:17). Jesus is the tree of life resulting in life (Gen. 2:9). In principle, saving man from the result of sin is changing death into life.
- How does the Lord Jesus set us free from sin? He does it by coming into us as the light of life. This light is not outside of us; it is in us. When we received the Lord, He entered into us as our life. This indwelling life now shines within us. That is light. Gradually and spontaneously, this shining of the indwelling life sets us free. To be set free from the bondage of sin is not an overnight matter; it takes time. Although you may be
- The fundamental question to which every man has consciously or unconsciously must give and answer to is: To what am I to give my life? Am I to give it to a career? Am I to give it to the amassing of material possessions? Am I to give it to pleasure? Am I to give it to the obedience and to the service of God? The truth that Jesus gives enables us to get our values right. It is in His truth that we see what things are really important and what things are not.

- In this passage there is the comparison between two fathers. One is the father of liars, the father of falsehood, murder, and adultery. Originally, we were born of this father. We should not think that we were merely born of our parents. On the one hand, we were born of our parents, but on the other hand, we were born of the evil father of lies. He is the greatest liar, and we, the smaller liars, were all born liars. “You are of your father the devil” (8:44). We were born of this father of lies. Consequently, we were born sons of lies. We should not think that we were born Americans or Chinese, for each one of us was born a liar.
- Praise the Lord that there is another father, the heavenly Father, the Father of light and truth. He is the great I Am, who became incarnated as a man. As the Son of Man, He was lifted up on the cross for our sin and died for us. Now, if we believe in Him and in what He has done for us, He, as the great I Am, the Father of life, will come into us to be our life and light. Then He will deliver us from falsehood into reality and from darkness into the kingdom of light, where we will be set free from the bondage and slavery of sin.

- The Jewish religion was genuine and wonderful. It was good in every respect except one—it was versus the great I Am. Religion may be good, but it cannot give you life. It cannot help you because you are dead. A dead person does not need something good; he needs something of life. Only life can help a dead man. Suppose you say to a dead person, “Poor man, here are gold and diamonds. You shouldn’t be dead. Look at the gold—how valuable! Look at the diamonds—how precious!” It would be foolish to speak to a dead man in such a way. He could hear nothing. In chapter five we saw the porches near the pool on which were the blind, the lame, and the withered. If you were to preach to such people they would say, “Don’t waste your time. I don’t need something good. I need life.”
- Who is the Lord Jesus? He is the very Jehovah, the I Am. According to Genesis 1, God’s name in relation to His creation is Elohim, God. After creation, however, in Genesis 2, when God was attempting to form a relationship with man, God’s other name was mentioned—Jehovah, I Am that I Am. Jehovah is God’s name in His relationship with mankind. At the time of John 8, Jehovah stood there in the form of a little man by the name of Jesus, which means Jehovah the Savior. Again I say that you must learn the lesson not to care for the outward appearance. If you merely care for the outward appearance, you will certainly miss the mark. The Jewish religionists of the day missed the mark because they despised that little Jesus. Jesus had no form, comeliness, beauty, or attraction. Nevertheless, He was the great I Am.