

Note #101—John 8:58-59

58. Yeshua 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 Yeshua hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

[The self-description of God in Exodus 3:14 is "I AM" (אֲנִי) or "I AM THAT I AM"—see note# 102. The divine self-description is solemnly pronounced by His Word the Messiah in this passage. Yeshua completes the self-description with several "I AM" sayings in John: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (6:35), THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (8:12), THE GATE (10:7, 9), THE GOOD SHEPHERD (10:11, 14), THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE (11:25), THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE (14:6), THE TRUE VINE (15:1, 5). Liberal New Testament scholars once thought these sayings were unreliable and late, collected by the not-so-early-church. Now liberal scholars like J. A. T. Robinson have dated the entire New Testament within 40 or less years of the crucifixion. Why? Because the destruction of the Temple, a mighty argument in favor of the claims of Yeshua, seems to be something the New Testament writings are entirely ignorant about. This raises the probability that the destruction of the Temple hadn't happened yet, and that these very early, reliable New Testament documents were written before 70 C.E. and much closer to the time of the ministry of Yeshua in 30 C.E.]