

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 95

In Yerushalayim for Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) ~ Part 9

In our last post, we learned that **Yeshua Warns Against Unbelief** and more. In this post, we will learn that **Yeshua Declares His External Existence**.

As in our last several posts, **Yeshua** is still speaking on the last day of **Sukkot, Hoshana Rabbah**.

Yeshua Declares His External Existence

⁴⁸ The Judeans answered Him, "Aren't we right in saying you are from Shomron and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Yeshua replied, "Me? I have no demon. I am honoring My Father. But you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking praise for Myself. There is One who is seeking it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹ Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever obeys My teaching will never see death."

⁵² The Judeans said to Him, "Now we know for sure that You have a demon! Avraham died, and so did the prophets; yet You say, 'Whoever obeys My teaching will never taste death.' ⁵³ Avraham Avinu (Father Abraham) died; You aren't greater than he, are You? And the prophets also died. Who do You think You are?" ⁵⁴ Yeshua answered, "If I praise Myself, My praise counts for nothing. The One who is praising Me is My Father, the very one about whom you keep saying, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ Now you have not known Him, but I do know Him; indeed, if I were to say that I don't know Him, I would be a liar like you! But I do know Him, and I obey His word. ⁵⁶ Avraham, your father, was glad that he would see My day; then he saw it and was overjoyed."

Avraham...would see My day. In **Jewish** tradition, details about the final judgment of all people are revealed to **Avraham** before his death.

⁵⁷ "Why, you're not yet fifty years old," the Judeans replied, "and you have seen Avraham?"

You're not yet fifty years old. The implication is that **Yeshua** appears close enough to fifty for the statement to be meaningful as a reasonable upper limit to His estimated age. Yet, we know that He was "about thirty" when he began his public ministry (Luke 3:23) and that His ministry lasted no longer than three years. Conclusion: He must have looked older than He was.

⁵⁸ Yeshua said to them, "Yes, indeed! Before Avraham came into being, I AM!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to throw at him; but Yeshua was hidden and left the Temple grounds. ¹

Before Avraham came into being, I AM. This and Yochanan 10:30 are **Yeshua's** clearest self-pronouncements of His divinity. It was obvious to the **Judeans** exactly what **Yeshua's** claim was because they immediately took up stones to kill him (v. 59) for blasphemy. Claiming to be **God** and, specifically, pronouncing **God's** name (as **Yeshua** had just done) were punishable by death. See Exodus 3:14 and Leviticus 24:15-16.

In our next post, we continue with our new series on **Yeshua's Journey to Yerushalayim for the Feast of Sukkot**. In our next post, we come to one of my all-time favorite passages: **The Healing of the Man Born Blind**.

¹ Yochanan 8:54-59.