

Jesus' use of the divine title "I AM" [Gk., *ego eimi*] in John 8, verses 24 and 58 proves his deity.

Response: At John 8:58 Jesus says, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.*" Trinitarians relate this statement to the account of Exodus 3:14 where "*God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*" Was Jesus applying the title *I AM* to himself? Interestingly, someone other than Jesus uses this exact same Greek phrase only ten verses later. At John 9:9 a man whom Jesus had healed also says "*I am.*"⁸ [*ego eimi*] Should we conclude that this man is part of a triune God? Certainly not, so the simple statement *I am* does not prove deity. The *I AM* title was not revealed to Abraham, the ancestor mentioned by Jesus, but to Moses hundreds of years after Abraham's death. In his statement Jesus was expressing his pre-eminence over Abraham in the plan of God. Why, then, did the Jews want to stone him for what he said? To the Jews this self-exaltation by someone they considered a nobody was a blasphemous degradation of Abraham's position as a prophet in special covenant with God, and they wanted to stone him for it. (Compare to the situation at Acts 6:11.)

In John 8:24 Jesus proclaimed, "*If you do not believe that I am, you shall die in your sins.*" Was he now alluding to the divine title? Twelve verses earlier he said, "*I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" So what Jesus meant in verse 24 was simply, '*If you do not believe that I am* [who I claim to be, namely, the light of the world], *you shall die in your sins.*'

⁸ In this verse English translations read either '*I am the man*' or '*I am he.*' Neither *the man* nor *he* appears in the Greek text. [Prop # 9]