

John 8.58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

There are two issues with this verse. (1) It is often alleged that Jesus is claiming to be God because he is calling himself the "I am" from Exodus 3.14. However, this is easily disproved by correcting the translation. The words translated "I am" are *ego eimi*, which in the same chapter are translated "I am" (v12), "I am he" (v18), "I am he" (v24), and "I am he" (v28). The words can either mean "I am" in the sense of v12 "I am the light of the world" when there is a predicate attached, or when there is not *ego eimi* is translated "I am he" where the "he" is supplied by the translators. If saying *ego eimi* "I am" is the same as claiming to be God then the blind man, just nine verses later is also claiming to be God.

Others were saying, "This is he," *still* others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." (John 9.9) The words "I am the one" are translated from the two Greek words *ego eimi*. Thus, John 8.58 should have been translated "I am the one, before Abraham existed" or something to that effect. Jesus pre-existed before Abraham came to be, either as a spirit being or else in the mind of God (cf. Genesis 3.15).