



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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# 4,857 YEARS OLD AND COUNTING

The United States of America will be 250 years old this coming summer. Parades and various events are planned in celebration of the joyous occasion. It should be a sight to see indeed. However, in the White Mountains of Inyo County, in the eastern part of California, is found a Great Bristlecone pine tree named Methuselah. The tree is said to be 4,857 years old. Jeanne Calment who resided in Arles, France lived to be 122. She ate two pounds of chocolate weekly, and even rode a bicycle until the age of 100. Amazing, but her 122 years was but a drop in the bucket of that "old tree". Now put it into context with at least one from the pages of the Bible. That tree precedes Abraham by some 800 years, can you imagine that?



*rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*" (John 8:56) The response was quick, *"You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?"* (John 8:57) They fully understood what Jesus said next, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."* (John 8:58) Upon hearing this they picked up stones with which to stone Him. They knew Jesus wasn't referring to chronological age, rather to pre-existing and

He did so by making use of *"I am"* (Exodus 3:14) Which as Deity He could make that claim.

Jesus is indeed eternal. Mankind likes to hold onto how old a specific religion might be, finding some sort of solace therein. Hinduism is said to be 4,000 years old, while Judaism clocks in at over 3,500 years old. Buddhism 2,500 and Shintoism roughly at 2,500 years old, but all that pales in comparison to Jesus. He has always been and always will be.

*"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."* (Colossians 1:16-17)

Divine Supremacy. Check out Hebrews 1:2-3, 8-12 which clearly builds on what is seen in Colossians and the gospel of John. Jesus *"is before all things"* and in Him *"all things are held together"*. He is the essential truth and the only access mankind has to the Father. When Thomas asked Jesus *"how do we know the way"* Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."* (John 14:9) Jesus is timeless.

(wbe)

THE BULWARK

Now visualize the scene recorded in the eighth chapter of John when Jesus, a thirty some year old man who stood before a collection of scribes and Pharisees. They were openly challenging Jesus at every juncture with respect to His identity. In verse twelve, John notes that Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world; and he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."* Jesus clearly identified Himself as the source of spiritual truth and guidance. The only avenue out of the darkness of sin. However, that didn't seem to satisfy them as they kept pressing Him.

*"Who are You?"* was asked of Jesus as John noted in verse twenty-five. To which Jesus answered, *"What have I been saying to you from the beginning?"* One could say that what Jesus was saying wasn't registering with them, but that wouldn't be quite correct. Because later on in the discourse Jesus made reference to Abraham, *"Your father Abraham*