

The Seven “I AM” Statements of Jesus

Written By Rev.
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John 6–15



1. I AM the bread of life
6:35, 48



2. I AM the light of the world
8:12; 9:5



3. I AM the gate *10:7*



4. I AM the good shepherd
10:11, 14



5. I AM the resurrection and the life
11:25



6. I AM the way and the truth and the life
14:6



7. I AM the true vine
15:1, 5

Introduction

Jesus said - **“Who Do Men Say I Am”** Matthew 15:16

‘Jesus asked His disciples, saying to them, **“Who do men say that I am?”** So they answered, *“John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”* He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Peter answered and said to Him, **“You are the Christ”**’ (Mark 8:27-29).

Incase you don’t know, “The Christ” means the “Anointed One” that had been prophesied by many different prophets way back since Adam’s day. It all started with God speaking to the Serpent in Genesis. He started the prophetic link that went through every age, even until Jesus’ day. Here is that first prophecy.

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”
Genesis 3:15

Over the centuries, many have said that Jesus was someone that He really wasn’t or was in part but not fully. He certainly was a good teacher, a human prophet and even a Rabbi but His true identity was all of this and more. Who did Jesus say He was?

In His Own Words

Jesus said, **“I am the Bread of Life.** *He who comes to Me shall never hunger and He who believes in Me shall never thirst”* (John 6:35).

“I am the Light of the World, *he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”* (John 8:12).

“I am the Door. *If anyone enters by Me, He will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture”* (John 10:9).

“ I am the Good Shepherd. *The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep* (John 10:11).

“ I am the Resurrection and the Life. *He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live* (John 11:25).

“I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

“ I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).

“I and My Father are One” (John 10:30)

“I am the true Vine” (John 15:1, 5)

A “Whosoever” Offer

Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).

His Origin And Destiny

Jesus taught He existed before the foundation of the world (Micah 5:2, John 17:24), and He came from heaven (John 6:41-42). He explained He was alive before Abraham (John 8:58), and He said Moses testified of Him (John 5:39). He stated He was and is equal with God the Father (John 10:30-33, 14:9, 17:5), and by His works He proved His Divinity (John 14:11).

His Ministry

Jesus told people He could forgive sins, as only God can (Luke 7:48), and He freed people from condemnation (John 8:7-11).

Jesus knew who He was. However, His question to His Disciples still haunts religious leaders and people of all races and creeds.

“But who do you say that I am?”

Peter was granted a revelation from God, the father, that caused him to realize that Jesus was this long ago foretold Messiah or Christ...the Anointed One from God.

I find it odd that only Peter knew the true identity of Jesus, especially when He was doing miracles and preaching the kingdom of God. He openly spoke of Himself and told folks who He was and why He was there.

Now, let’s look at *“The Seven I AM’s of John’s Gospel”*. It’s a real eye opener. We’ll hear what the folks in the 1st century heard and can make

our own decisions as to who Jesus is. I don't believe we should blindly accept what others say. They could and often are wrong. However, the Word of God is true and everlasting. It never lies or distorts the truth. It is the divine revelation of God.

I AM....In the context of Exodus 3, the meaning of the name Yahweh is given when he promises Moses, "I will be with you." The same Hebrew word, ehyeh ("I will be") occurs in the phrase, "I will be who I will be," or "I am who I am." Yahweh, therefore, is the with-you God, Emmanuel phrase

The name Yahweh, written in Hebrew as YHWH reveals seven different names that are attributed to describing God. Thus when we read, "I Am Who I Am" we are to understand that He is the provider; the healer; our banner; Our Peace; Our Shepherd; Our Righteousness; and The Light Ever With US.

1. YHWH-Yireh — "The Lord will provide" (Genesis 22:13-14)
2. YHWH-Rapha — "The Lord that healeth" (Exodus 15:26)
3. YHWH-Niss"i — "The Lord our Banner" (Exodus 17:8-15)
4. YHWH-Shalom — "The Lord our Peace" (Judges 6:24)
5. YHWH-Ra-ah — "The Lord is the Way, my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)
6. *YHWH-Tsidkenu* — "Yahweh our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6)
7. *YHWH-Shammah* — "Yahweh is the Light, ever present" (Ezekiel 48:35)

"I am who I am" is the response God used in the Bible when Moses asked for his name (Exodus 3:14). It is one of the most famous verses in the Torah.

When Jesus responded to the Jews when they asked who He was, He tied himself into being the great I AM of Exodus and thus God Himself in the flesh. Here's the reference.

*"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham Was, I AM.** Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."* John 8:56-58

"The Seven I AM's of John's Gospel"

"I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:35)....Jesus identifies Himself with YHWH-Yireh "The Lord will provide" (Genesis 22:13-14) This is an indirect reference to the, "Bread of Heaven" or Manna that God rained down from heaven when

the Jews wandered in the wilderness. The earthly Manna was to sustain them physically but the Bread of Heaven would go further to sustain them Spiritually providing eternal life. (See my eBook “Manna In The Morning” at www.christianliferesourcecenter.org)

“I am the Light of the World” (John 8:12)...Here Jesus identifies Himself as YHWH-Shammah — "Yahweh is the Light, ever present" (Ezekiel 48:35) This declaration was just after Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery. He wanted the Jews, that stood by, to know that He was ever present as a light to all who had lost their way. The woman had indeed lost her way and needed a light to find it again.

“I am the Door” (John 10:9)...Here, Jesus identifies himself as YHWH-Ra-ah — "The Lord is the Way, my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1) The door to the Kingdom of Heaven is Jesus. He also said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* John 14:6.

“I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11)...This is a clear reference to Jesus being the Shepherd of Psalm 23

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

However, John records Jesus explaining His relationship to those that will follow Him. Here’s what He said:

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10:11-15

“ ***I am the Resurrection and the Life***” (John 11:25)...By being our resurrection and life, Jesus identified Himself as YHWH-Yireh — "The Lord will provide" (Genesis 22:13-14)

“***I have come that they may have life***” (John 10:10)...Jesus came to give us a banner of Life that would cover us and identify us as His personal possession. This is an identify with YHWH-Niss"i — "The Lord our Banner" (Exodus 17:8-15)

“ ***I am the Way, the Truth and the Life***” (John 14:6)... This is another reference to Jesus being the Door/way...YHWH-Ra-ah — "The Lord is the Way, my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

“**I and My Father are One**” (John 10:30) *Jesus equates His righteousness with mthat of God by saying He and God are one. YHWH-Tsidkenu — "Yahweh our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6)*

“**I am the true Vine**” (John 15:1, 5) Jesus identified Himself as YHWH-Yireh — "The Lord will provide" (Genesis 22:13-14) The true vine is how God provides. We have to be connected to the vine. When we are, we get all that the vine has.

Is Jesus Really God?

Christians have no such problem affirming Jesus’ divinity. They do so for the reason that Jesus claimed to be divine, and at the same time backed up that claim with miraculous powers. It’s one thing for me to claim that I’m God; it’s another thing for me to prove it to you by raising the dead, calming storms, and walking on water. Christians affirm Jesus’ deity because they believe the Gospels contain authentic history — including the parts where Jesus makes divine claims. (Ryan Leasure’s 2018 Internet article)

Jesus Christ is the Great I AM. “I AM.” It is the personal name of the God of the Old Testament (Exodus 3:13-14). On several occasions it is recorded that Jesus used the “I AM” formula in attesting to His deity. He claimed to be the LORD God, Jehovah, Yahweh.

The greatest of all the names for the Lord Jesus Christ is the “I AM.” This is why the apostle Paul wrote: “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11). Jesus is Lord. The name that

is above all other names is “Lord,” and it is equivalent to “Jehovah” or Yahweh. This is the exact equivalent to the words, “I AM.” The name that is above all earthly and heavenly names is Yahweh, the great “I AM THAT I AM.”

The apostle Paul tells us that the Lord Jesus is so above all other beings that all who are in heaven and the earth will bow and worship Him. He is God. He is not one among many gods, but the One and Only (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Cor. 8:4).

On one occasion He responded to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well when she perceived that He could possibly be the long awaited for Messiah. Jesus said, “He who speaks to you am he.” Literally, Jesus said, “I am,” pointing to His claim to the title “I AM.”

Moreover, that is not the only time He made the claim. He used these words to refer to His deity in John 8:24.

“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

He was saying you couldn’t be saved unless you recognize and believe that Jesus Christ is God.

A little later He used the formula again, even more clearly when He said, “before Abraham was born, I am” (8:58).

The Jewish leaders gathered around listening to Jesus knew exactly what He meant because they picked up stones to kill Him. He was claiming to be the great I AM and they understood that.

Seven times in the Gospel of John Jesus claims to be the great “I am” (4:26; 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 13:19; 18:5).

In every one of these contexts the “I am” keeps reinforcing the deity of Jesus. He is stating His claim to be God.

Moreover, there are seven more occasions when Jesus used the great formula coupled with a noun describing Himself as the only one who can meet man’s greatest needs in life. He uses the name Jehovah to declare His uniqueness.

Jesus fed 5,000 men and declared, “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35). He alone is able to satisfy the greatest spiritual hunger in your life. Have you

come to Him and ate His bread and drank His blood? There is no other way to have life. Do you go to Him daily and eat the bread of life? You will starve to death spiritually if you do not eat at His table daily.

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world” (8:12; 9:5).

He healed a blind man groping in darkness and then opened his spiritual eyes so he could see the great I AM and worship Him. Are you wandering around in a spiritual darkness following one blind religious guide after another? Jesus is the only light you need to guide you into God’s holy presence. All other “lights” are evil in nature and will only lead you into eternal darkness.

Jesus said that He is the only door into God’s presence. He said, “I am the Door” (10:7, 9). All other doors lead down the wrong path and to eternal destruction. Jesus is the entrance into eternal life (Acts 4:12).

Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd” (10:11, 14). Every individual is like a wandering, stray lost lamb caught in the briars of sin. There are a lot of false shepherds herding up stray sheep to take to slaughter. Jesus is the only Good Shepherd. He will take you by the hand and led you into the Father’s presence and give you His nourishment.

Jesus conquered death. Not only did He say, “I am the resurrection and life” (11:25-26), but He rose from the dead to prove it. In fact, this is the great evidence that Jesus Christ is the great I AM THAT I AM.

He died, was buried, and three days later rose from the dead. Because He is alive, He can give the resurrection life. This is our hope in the face of death. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (14:6).

Only God can claim that. Furthermore, He sustains our spiritual life because He is the True Vine, the only way, and the giver of life. Jesus said, “I am the True Vine” (15:1, 5).

What will you do with the great I AM? Claim Him as your Lord and worship Him today (20:28-29). (By Wil Pounds Abide In Christ Ministries)

The Great “I AM” And You

If we can apply the “I AM’s” to our faith walk, we will instantly realize that the “Great I AM” is at the beginning of everything we are. I say, “are” because Jesus said, I AM. In other words, He is whatever He says He is and

the full power of God stands at the beginning of His declaration to see that it comes to be. Therefore, when we say I AM, we also “are” whatever He says we are... because we “are” in Him. Here’s the key to it all;

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.” Romans 8:11

Quicken is to “Make Alive” or bring back from the dead. Thus the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us. He is at the beginning of everything we are to insure we become all that He wants us to be.

If I say, what the Bible declares...that, “I am more than a conqueror”, this means that the full power of the Spirit of God is at my side. The “Great IAM” is with me. If you are filled with the Spirit, He is also at your beginnings...with you always.

If you say, as the scriptures say, that You are healed by the stripes of Jesus, you can count on that same Holy Spirit, that raised Christ from the dead to bring back from the dead or quicken your mortal flesh and make the area of suffering well again.

Conclusion

Who do you think Jesus is? I guess that is the ultimate question. Ignoring it would be a mistake because your eternal destination hangs on how you answer it.

If you dismiss it and avoid answering this question, you could end up like many others. They avoided the issue right into Hell. By not doing anything, you are rejecting God’s plan for mankind to be set free from Sin and be accepted into His Kingdom. Hear it from Jesus:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

God loved the world. It was His crowing creation and Man was His greatest achievement. He gave his one and only Son, as a penalty for the sins of all mankind, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. This is a gift of grace by our creator for the purpose of re-

establishing a oneness with man as He once had before Adam rebelled in the Garden of Eden.

Why anyone would reject this free gift or avoid making a decision is beyond me. In any event, we all have a free will that has been provided by this same God and He does not take prisoners. That means your destiny is solely in your hands. What you do with Jesus is up to you.

Make the right choice and allow Jesus to become your Savior and follow Him. He will take you to the “Promised Land”, His Kingdom to dwell with Him forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you always



Fragile Flower Red

**As a flower in earthen sod,
I bloom for thee, oh God.
To blossom with the turn of spring,
to be to you, a beautiful thing.**

**I lift my Fragile Flower Red
upward from my earthen bed,
to draw light from God above,
strength and peace and joy and love.**

**As a flower, I bloom for Thee,
that passersby may stop and see.
Your fragrance and beauty I am,
flowered in grace as I Stand.**

**As a flower in earthen sod,
I bloom for Thee, oh God.
Upward, I lift my head,
as a Fragile Flower Red.**

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