

I AM He
Easter Series
I AM That I AM – Jesus Is The One: Part 1
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THE BIG IDEA: SERMON OVERVIEW

The evidence of the resurrection is irrefutable, undisputable, and overwhelming; there is no doubt it, Jesus is the Christ! Yes, Jesus of Nazareth, the One, the Messiah—King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Promised One, the One that we have been waiting for, the One that the Father has sent, He is the salvation of the world. He is who He says He is. He is alive and He will return!

In fact, Jesus is the way the truth and the life, there is no other way to God and no other way to be saved except through Christ Himself. God has connected the dots; the prophecies are overwhelming the foreshadowing of the Old Testament, without question, and the proof within the New Testament is both compelling and without dispute. Throughout history and the stories of the Bible, God provides evidence of the identity of Jesus, His mission, and His heart to save the human soul and restore all things to Himself.

This sermon series is about providing proof and evidence that Jesus is the Christ and the Saviour of the world—we do not need to wait for anyone else. The Apostles and the early church lived their lives with such faith and conviction in Christ Jesus. After all, they stuck out their very lives on this truth. Think about it, why would the disciples defend a dead person? If He was fake; why would they lay down their lives and die for a fraud? We can have absolute confidence that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, He Himself declared, "I Am He".

THE WHY: OBJECTIVE

- To give people confidence in the person and divinity of Jesus
- To build people's faith.

SERMON QUESTIONS

- 1) What do they need to know?
 - Jesus is the Christ, the awaited Messiah, He is the One.
- 2) Why do they need to know it?
 - That their faith and their confidence may grow.
- 3) How should we apply it?
 - It is an everyday walk of faith.

The greatest inheritance that we have received From God, is our relationship with Christ.

CENTRAL TRUTH

When Jesus declared, "I Am", He was stating that He is God! Not only that God was in Him, speaking through Him, and reconciling the world to Himself, but that Jesus is divine and equal with God, in other words, He is God.

The central truth of this message is that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He is the Saviour of the world. He is God. We can have absolute confidence that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, He Himself said, "I Am He".

Not only is Jesus Christ the One, but He is also all that fills all, He has everything, He is awesome, He is Messiah, He is Master, He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He fills all in all.

MAIN PASSAGES

1 Timothy 6:13-16

¹³I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Revelation 1:18

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

MAIN POINTS

Jesus began by asking the question: "Who do people say that I am"? When Peter provides the answer, Jesus tells him that God had revealed this to Peter and that it did not come from human knowledge. In other words, Peter did not speculate or somehow come to this conclusion by his own knowledge or wisdom or even perception. It was not an effort to score brownie points with Jesus, sort-to-speak. In fact, for a Jewish person to make this kind of statement would have been considered blasphemy of the highest level and considering Jesus was not accepted by the religious system, this made it even more improbable.

The other disciples must have been taken aback for a moment to hear Peter say this and the awaited response from Jesus. Perhaps they were waiting for Jesus to correct Peter or even rebuke him for such an outlandish statement, but soon they would understand, and their eyes would be open to the truth of who He really was. Up to that moment, Jesus was a teacher, a Rabbi, a Prophet, one who clearly heard from God and had brought a new and fresh message. But they had no idea that He was the One, the Christ, the Messiah.

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

Jesus has been “hijacked” by so many movements. In other words, He has become the poster child for so many groups to promote their personal agendas. They change His name, His purpose, His appearance, His skin color, His ethnicity, etc. Yes, He is a personal Saviour and people are encouraged to receive Him as such, but that does not mean that He should be changed into people’s image of Him. Please note some of the depictions of Jesus that are not biblical:

- African/black Jesus
- American Jesus
- European Jesus
- Catholic Jesus
- Rockstar Jesus
- Social justice Jesus
- Prosperity Jesus
- Post-modern Jesus
- Good teacher Jesus
- Prophet Jesus
- Good person Jesus
- Hippie Jesus.

The great I AM reveals Himself to three key people:

- 1) Moses
- 2) The woman at the well
- 3) The scribes and the Pharisees.

1. **“I Am Foretold” - Over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament provide evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, “The Great I Am”**

We see a consistent message from the Old Testament, and through to the New Testament, regarding the identity of Jesus Christ.

Here are some examples of how Jesus revealed Himself to these people:

- There is concrete evidence that Jesus is Messiah
- He is the Saviour of the world
- He is the long awaited One
- “I Am” indicates that God is always in the present tense.

2. **“I Am Almighty” – I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,”** says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev 1:8)

Revelation 1:7-8

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- Christ said of Himself that He is the beginning and the end of all things. However, we understand that God was before the beginning and in Him there is no end. These terms are used to help us understand God and His incredible purposes.
- Christ is always, Christ was always, He is the mighty God, the Great I Am, and He will return once again
- All things began with Him, all things were created through Him, for Him, and for His pleasure, He is the centre and the core of all creation.

3. **"I Am the Salvation" - Rescue and deliverance of my People (Moses)**

Exodus 3:14

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

- Jesus declares that He is God and is divine
- Overall things, Jesus is I am:
 - Over poverty, I AM
 - Over addiction and bondage, I AM
 - Over sickness and disease, I AM
 - Over broken relationships, I AM
 - Over rejection, I AM
 - Over betrayal, I AM
 - Over hopelessness, I AM
 - Over mental health, I AM
 - Over demonic powers principalities and thrones, I AM
 - Over wickedness and corruption, I AM
 - Over greed, lust, and hatred, I AM
 - Christ is the great I Am overall things, over sin and unrighteousness there is not one thing in heaven, hell or on earth that is above the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **"I Am Eternal" – Before Abraham**

John 8:56-59

⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad." ⁵⁷Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." ⁵⁹Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

- Jesus said, "I Am all and all"
- Abraham is an incredible leader and person to the Jewish faith; he is considered the father of the faith
- He left everything he knew including foreign gods, land, family, and his way of life to follow God in complete obedience.

5. **"I Am He That Speaks" – The Woman at the Well**

John 4:25-26

²⁵The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am He."**

- In the story, we see how Jesus provides the greatest revelation—His identity to a woman that was not even fully Jewish. Furthermore, her reputation was of ill repute and hardly a person worthy of this discussion, let alone the incredible revelation.
- He is the truth – He does not lie – He is opposite of all that is fake
- Jesus revealed Himself to the woman at the well, "I Am He that speaks to you"
- To the despised and outcast – Jesus reveals His identity
- He challenged the woman to decide based on His identity
- Through a crucial conversation, Jesus brought the woman to place of decision.

6. The Seven I Am's of Jesus

In the Gospel of John, we are given seven titles of Jesus and they all begin with the title: "I AM". Although John writes about this, Christ is the author of His own titles and descriptions. It is through these seven powerful sayings that we begin to understand who Jesus truly is, His power, His anointing, and His purpose in coming to the earth.

I AM...	Descriptions	Scripture Reference
The Bread of Life	Spiritual and natural sustenance	John 6:35
The Light of the World	Illumination and revelation	John 8:12
The Door	Access and entry into God's Kingdom and into the presence of the Father	John 10:9
The Good Shepherd	Jesus is an incredible leader and protector; He guides us along the path of life	John 10:11,14
The Resurrection and the Life	He is the source of all life, and He provides eternal life and raises the dead to life	John 11:25
The Way, the Truth, and the Life	He is the roadmap to salvation, and all that is right and true	John 14:6
The Vine	He is the connection between God and humanity, He is the source of all life	John 15:1,5

QUOTES

When we have a clear identity of who Christ is, all of hell's authority cannot overpower the corporate body. Without a firm trust that God has all things under control, fear is the only option.

Grace without truth produces impurity but truth without grace produces a religious spirit.

When Jesus declared, "I Am", He was stating that He is God! Not only that God was in Him, speaking through Him, and reconciling the world to Himself, but that Jesus is divine and equal with God - He is God.

The Bible indicates that when Jesus returns every eye will see Him. He does not need the help of satellites and modern technology to make this happen.

Jesus did not come to the earth to pass our culture test but to teach us the Kingdom culture.

God allowed His own creation to murder Him.

If you're so afraid to die, why not find out if your name is in the Book of Life?

Jesus is not the great genie; He is the Great I AM!

The Pharisees were the woke culture of their day.

We don't get to modify Jesus to our preferences; we don't get to make Him in our image, or into our personal God.

God didn't say of Himself, "I was", He said "I AM".

“I AM” - THE DEFINITION

“The Koine Greek term Ego eimi, pronounced [eyó imí], literally I am, or it is I, is an emphatic form of the copulative verb that is recorded in the Gospels to have been spoken by Jesus on several occasions to refer to himself not with the role of a verb but playing the role of a name, in the Gospel of John occurring seven times with specific titles. These usages have been the subject of significant Christological analysis.[1][2] The term I Am relating to God appears over 300 times in the Bible, first in the book of Genesis (15:1) and last in Revelation (22:16). This has led to the Biblical God sometimes being referred to as “the great ‘I am’”.[3] – source ~Wikipedia – the free encyclopedia

NOTES AND THOUGHTS

The Wonder of Jesus

The whole Bible is about Jesus Christ, in fact, the logos is the written Word and revelation of the person of Jesus. Every one of the 66 books of the Bible points, in some way, to the Hero of the Bible—God’s Son. The Bible goes to great lengths to describe Jesus, and yet the scriptures say He was indescribable.

Consider some of the key things about Jesus:

Teaching

His teaching was more authoritative than any other teacher who had ever been heard.

Miraculous Power

His miracles interrupted the natural flow of the laws of physics like no other in human history had accomplished. And no one in His day ever denied His miracles. Even the religious leaders never denied them, yet they could not explain them. Furthermore, He had power and authority over the demonic realm.

Wisdom

His wisdom was beyond that of any philosopher in history. The Apostle John writes that He came full of grace and truth. What an incredible manifestation of wisdom. In His ministry, He constantly displayed acts of kindness, grace, and mercy and He was able to tell people to stop sinning. ***Grace without truth produces impurity but truth without grace produces a religious spirit.***

Agape: Love

Jesus is the epitome of “agape” love! God is love; therefore, Jesus is absolute love in the highest form and of the highest level. As His disciples and as the Church of Christ, we are called to love others and:

- Show kindness, compassion, and gentleness to each other
- Be kind to one another, tender-hearted
- Forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you
- Paul writes about love in 1Corinthians 13, which describes Jesus. Love:
 - Is patient
 - Is kind
 - Does not envy
 - Does not boast
 - Is not proud
 - Does not behave rudely
 - Is not self-seeking
 - Is not easily provoked
 - It thinks no evil.

What a beautiful description of the community of the church Jesus created. These are the attitudes of the church when Jesus’ spirit reigns.

Authority and power

As stated previously, He had authority and power over the demonic realm. He was able to command them to depart from people and regions and they obeyed Him simply because He spoke a word to them – “go”. Furthermore, we see how He walked on water, spoke to storms, caused fish, and loaves to multiply on several occasions.

Unity And a Sword

Jesus was not a unifying figure. He did not come to bring everybody together. He forced decisions and created division in some ways. Jesus often created a contrast within His teaching, referring to two different ways normally, for example:

- The narrow and the broad way
- Eternal life and death
- Solid foundations and shifting sand.

Jesus was not a politician, nor did He teach a politically friendly message. He indicated that people are either for Him or against Him and there is nothing in between. Although He was full of grace and mercy, He commanded people to stop sinning and to be holy and perfect as His Heavenly Father. He clearly pointed out that we are either under God’s authority and influence or under the influence of Satan and his kingdom. He was intentional, teaching the truth because He was the truth, and He is the truth, and the truth shall set people free. He did not mince words when it came to salvation, there was no ambiguity within His language or vocabulary. He was clear, He was precise, He was direct.

SERMON CONCLUSION

Who is Jesus to you?

This is a personal question that must be answered by everyone. It cannot be shrugged off or assumed or even taken lightly – it must be addressed today. Is He who He says He is, or is He the version of the person that people make Him out to be today?

The Call to Action

Make a personal commitment to Jesus today, give your life to Him.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1) How is Jesus divine? Give five examples.
- 2) Why would Jesus give a woman, that was not living right, the greatest revelation in the New Testament?
- 3) How could Jesus say, “Before Abraham I Am”?
- 4) Describe how Jesus was holy. Provide seven examples.
- 5) Jesus said that He did not come to bring peace but rather a sword. What does this mean? Is He contradicting Himself? Is He not the Prince of Peace? Why did He come to bring a sword?
- 6) Describe the following titles of Jesus: The Lion of Judah, the Almighty, Alpha and Omega.
- 7) Who were the Pharisees and Scribes of Jesus day? How did they impact life and society? Why were they always contradicting Jesus?