

I Am He

Easter Series

The Seven I Am's of Jesus: Part 2

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SERMON DESCRIPTION

For every need, request, situation, and circumstance God's answer to you is: "I am all things for you".

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do they need to know?
 - The God that spoke to Moses through the burning bush is none other than Jesus Christ, this is verified through the seven "I AM" statements that Jesus indicated about Himself.
2. Why do they need to know it?
 - That Christ is seen, known, revealed and working in the Old Testament
3. How should we apply it?
 - Through daily living and interaction, we are connected with the eternal God, everything we need is found in Him.

INTRODUCTION

A mother was watching her little boy intently drawing a picture with his crayons. She asked him what are you making? He looked at her with full confidence and assurance and said, "I am drawing a picture of God". She said to him, with some doubt in her voice, "But no one has ever seen God, nobody knows what He looks like". He said to her, "They will when I AM DONE"!

CENTRAL TRUTH

The seven I AM statements that Christ indicates about Himself in the Gospel of John is the full identity of the God who spoke to Moses THROUGH THE BURNING BUSH!

MAIN PASSAGE

Exodus 34:5-6

⁵And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

- 1) John 6:48: **I am that bread of life.** KJV
- 2) John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. KJV
- 3) John 10:9: **I am the door:** by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. KJV

- 4) John 10:11: **I am the good shepherd**: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
- 5) John 11:25: Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection**, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: KJV
- 6) John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. KJV
- 7) John 15:1: **I am the true vine**, and my Father is the husbandman. KJV

TRANSITION STATEMENT

The fact Christ declared seven items about Himself describing His nature and attributes is a clear indication and revelation of what God said to Moses at the burning bush: “I Am that I Am”. Therefore, the seven I AM’s are the definition of who God told Moses that He is.

MAIN POINTS

The Gospel of John is written around the seven I Am’s of Jesus. Is it any wonder that the beloved disciple would have the greatest revelation of the character and identity of Jesus Christ?

The Seven I Am’s of Jesus

In the Gospel of John, we are given seven titles of Jesus that begin with the term: “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.

The number seven represents completion and perfection. Considering that Jesus uses seven I Am’s to describe Himself declares that He is all in all and the completion of all things. He is perfectly divine in all ways.

Life

Note: In the seven I Am’s, the word “life” is mentioned five times.

- Five is the number of grace—Jesus is complete truth and complete grace. Therefore, in Him we have life that is full of grace and empowerment.

1. I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35) – This indicates spiritual and natural sustenance

- The bread comes down from heaven
- Keywords sustenance and sustaining power, partake
- The individual that comes to Christ will never go hungry, he will be sustained naturally and spiritually
- Exodus 16:13-18: The manna in the wilderness was the manifestation of Christ
- On two occasions, Jesus fed 5000 and 4000 men, not including women and children. This physical manifestation and miraculous power intended to reveal the true identity of Jesus, but not only would you meet the physical needs of the people but more importantly their spiritual needs.

- Jesus is the spiritual manna from heaven
- He is the bread that is eternal
- He is the bread from heaven
- In the Lord's prayer, we are encouraged as God's children to ask for daily bread, this would represent both spiritual and natural needs
- Bread is also part of the Lord's table, part of the last supper
- Jesus taught His followers not to work for bread which will ultimately spoil and go bad, but to partake of the true and eternal bread of life
- **Sticky statements**
 - **No other bread can truly fill you and satisfy you**
 - **People are always looking for satisfaction in all the wrong places**
 - **Some of the bread that Jesus provides is literally a secret.**

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna. (ESV)

How do I partake of the bread of Life?

- **God provides it** (Exodus 16:35 ESV) ³⁵ The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.
- **We ask daily for our God allotment** (Matthew 6:11 ESV) *Give us this day our daily bread*
- **We receive through communion**, "Jesus took bread and broke it".

2. I am the Light of the World (John 8:12) – this indicates illumination and revelation

- The light is always around us and in us
- **Jesus is complete enlightenment and illumination**
- This represents wisdom and enlightenment
- Revelation and insight
- God Himself is light
- *When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)*
 - Literally this means that those who join Jesus as one of His followers will not be ignorant of spiritual matters but will have the power of understanding, especially of the spiritual truth that brings eternal life. Whatever the spiritual question, Jesus is the answer.
 - There are so many that are walking in darkness but actually believe they are enlightened, we call this deception and delusion.

- **Light**
 - Light comes from God (Genesis 1:3)
 - God is light (Psalm 27:1)
 - God's Word enlightens our path (Psalm 119:105)
 - God can turn darkness into light (Isaiah 42:16)
 - Christians are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)
 - Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12)
 - Light shines in the hearts of Christians (2Corinthians 4:6)
 - Christians are children of light (Ephesians 5:8)¹

Quote

*Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was He a humanized God. he was perfectly God, and at the same time perfectly man, made like unto his brethren in all things.*² ~Charles Spurgeon

3. I am the Door/Gate (John 10:9)

- This indicates access an entry into God's Kingdom and into the presence of the Father
- The door is always right in front of us
- Keywords include access, entry, open
- Jesus is complete and total access
- This indicates that Jesus is the access to the Father
- He has opened the eternal gates that were previously closed
- He is the Gate of Heaven

John 10:9

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

- This is a reference to the Kingdom and recalls the words of Psalm 23:2, "He makes me lie down in green pasture."
 - Salvation is found through Jesus, He is the Gate to the Kingdom, and no one can enter except through Him (John 3:3, John 14:6)
 - Having entered through Him we will have the freedom to come and go as we please, dwelling in a state of peace in the midst of plenty.
- **The door**
 - Only Christ has the right to grant entry: "I am the door"
 - "Thura" (in the Greek) – **access or opportunity**
 - This conveys the idea regarding the future, favor, and blessing (see Ephesians 2:10)
 - Salvation is the open door to the entire economy of God – all the Father has is ours
 - Pasture – supplies resources and rest

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Ritzema, E. (Ed.). (2012). *300 Quotations for Preachers*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

- **Sticky statements,**
 - **Jesus is the door – He is accessed opportunity**
 - **Unlike the program, “let’s make a deal”, Jesus tells you exactly what is behind the door you are about to choose**
 - **You and I have free and have unlimited access to His Kingdom.**

4. I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)

- The Shepherd is always nearby
- This is an incredible metaphor and picture of Jesus’ tender devotion and care for His people who will accept Him in this role of the shepherd of their soul
- In the Old Testament the image of God is described as a Shepherd, this means that Christ is referring to Himself as being divine (Genesis 48:15; 49:24; Psalms 23:1; 80:1)
- No one expects sheep to be responsible for themselves. Owners hire shepherds for that purpose. A shepherd’s job is to accept responsibility for the safety and well-being of his flock. Most shepherds only take that to the point where it would threaten their personal safety, rightly deciding that their life is worth more than that of a sheep. A few would be willing to risk their lives to protect their sheep, but our Shepherd knowingly and willingly died to save us, because there was no other way.
 - Jesus is complete protection
 - This indicates that Jesus is an incredible leader, protector, and He guides us along the path of life
- **Sticky statements**
 - **You will always be better off to allow God to protect you than to try and protect yourself**
 - **Jesus has already proven to us that He’s willing to trade His life for ours, therefore, He will never abandon us when we are under attack**
 - **Jesus’ motto as the Good Shepherd, “walk softly and carry a big stick”.**

5. I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

- The concept of the resurrection is that out of death God always brings about life. It is a paradox that is not easily understood because death is so final. However, Christ has conquered the enemy of enemies who is the taker of life. In other words, by conquering death Christ now has power to grant life; therefore, death no longer has the final word, but Jesus has it
- The resurrection is not an event it is a person – Jesus
 - This indicates that He is the source of all life and that He holds the ultimate power to grant life:
 - He holds the keys to death and life
 - He grants authority over the Gates of Heaven and hell
 - Jesus is the completion of life
 - He is able to provide eternal life and to raise the dead.
- The resurrection comes **out of** death and the grave
- RESURRECTION DEFINED: **G386 (Strong)** ἀνα-στασις anastasis - *an-as'-tas-is*
 - From G450; a **standing up again**, that is, (literally) a **resurrection from death** (individual, general or by implication (its author)), or (figuratively) a (moral) *recovery* (of spiritual truth):

- **raised to life again**, resurrection, rise from the dead, that should rise, rising again. (Total KJV occurrences: 42)

- **Quotes**

- **Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life** — “The whole power to restore, impart, and maintain life, resides in Me.” (See on [John 1:4](#); see on [John 5:21](#)). What higher claim to supreme divinity than this grand saying can be conceived?” (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown)
- **I am the resurrection and the life** – “The words *I am* are very significant. Martha had stated the resurrection rather as *a doctrine, a current tenet*: Jesus states it as *a fact*, identified with His own person. **He does not say, I raise the dead; I perform the resurrection**, but *I am* the resurrection, In His own person, representing humanity, He exhibits man as immortal, but immortal only through union with Him”. (Vincent word study)

- **Sticky statements:**

- **Death no longer has the final word, Jesus does**
- **Though we may die in this life, Christ can give it back to us**
- **The resurrection is not an event but a person**

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

- The path of life is always available to us
- In this statement, Christ gives us a threefold cord, much like a threefold blessing, three in one to illustrate His incredible impact on our lives and future:
 - **Way** - (direction, pathway, movement) + manner
 - “Hodos” (in the Greek) – implies - progress, the route, distance / figuratively – mode, means, journey, highway
 - **Truth** - ‘Aletheia” (in the Greek) - verity – the perfect revelation of God
 - **Life** - “Zoe” (in the Greek) life and time
 - Keywords include vitality and vibrance, all that is alive and living
 - “Liveliness and life are not the same thing”
 - “View life through the lens of eternity”
- The three in one bonus
 - Way – the path and direction of life
 - Truth – all that is right, true, accurate and precise
 - Life – the essence of living
- He is the path that leads to life and not death
 - Jesus is the essence of living, a full and complete life
 - This indicates that He is the roadmap to salvation, and all that is right and true
- **Sticky statements**
 - **Some people are not really living, they are merely existing**
 - **God will always show you the path of life.**

7. I am the Vine (John 15:1,5)

- “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)
 - It is important to understand that salvation is not a fruit bearing event, so in this statement Jesus was talking about our life after we are saved.
 - Of course, a non-believer cannot bear fruit, and even after we are saved, believers are not automatically fruitful. But if we yield our life to Him, (Romans 12:1-2) and respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit He sent to guide us (John 14:26) we can bear much fruit. If not,

our lives will be unfruitful, because without Him we can do nothing of spiritual value. We will still be saved, but we will be of no use to the work of the Kingdom than the unfruitful branches the gardener discards at pruning time. Paul confirmed this in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. The unfruitful believer will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

- The true vine grows from the unseen, it is buried under the earth
- All fruit is produced because ultimately it is connected to the root or to the true vine; therefore, outside of Christ we are useless to produce anything that is meaningful or long lasting
- This indicates that He is the connection between God and humanity, that He is the source of all life
- Jesus is the connection to Father God and the disciples of Christ are connected to the Father through Jesus Christ
 - Life and sustenance flow through the person and grace of Jesus
 - Through Him flows all that is essential to live
- **Sticky statements**
 - **It is of vital importance who you are connected to**
 - **The ability to bear fruit is directly related to the connection to the true vine**
 - **To abide is not a one-time event, it is an ongoing process, a continuation, and intentional connection.**

QUOTES

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. ~Clarence W. Hall

The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in. ~Peter Marshall

We live and die; Christ died and lived! ~John Stott

Christ has not only spoken to us by his life but has also spoken for us by his death. ~Soren Kierkegaard

If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ~1 Corinthians 15:14

Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like himself before he takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility and our ultimate destiny. ~Rick Warren

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time. ~Martin Luther

Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection. ~Watchman Nee

Easter is always the answer to "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!" ~Madeleine L'Engle

We must not forget that it wasn't the Jews that put him on the cross, and it wasn't the Romans. It was my sins, it was your sins, the sins of this world. ~Franklin Graham

A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me. ~Andrew Murray

Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise." ~Phillips Brooks

"He is risen; he is not here." ~Mark 16:6

SERMON CONCLUSION

To your every need and request He says, "I Am".

"Because I Am, so are you in this world"

In summary, let us put each of these seven "I Am" statements in capsule form

- Statement 1: Tells us that Jesus is the One who spiritually sustains us.
- Statement 2: We learn that through Him we gain spiritual understanding and wisdom for living.
- Statement 3: Explains that He has given us free and unlimited access to His Kingdom.
- Statement 4: Shows how He did this by paying our entrance fee with His life
- Statement 5: We learn that whether we die before the Lord returns, He has guaranteed our eternal life with God.
- Statement 6: Explains that He is the only one who can do this for us.
- Statement 7: Reveals that for the balance of our life on earth, the things we do in His strength, out of gratitude for what He has done for us, are the only things that matter.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1) How can we be confident that it was Jesus that spoke to Moses through the burning bush? Provide scriptural evidence. Do you really believe that the seven I AM's of Christ or the revelation of who God told Moses He was at the burning bush, why or why not?
- 2) How can we apply the statement, "I am the way the truth and the life" to every day practical living? Give three examples.
- 3) Dig deeper into John 15. What does Jesus really mean about abiding, bearing fruit, and that He is the true vine? What kind of fruit is He referring to?
- 4) If Jesus came to bring us resurrection life, why do people still die?
- 5) What is the connection between John 10:9 and Ephesians 2:10? Particularly as it relates to, we are His workmanship and good works.
- 6) Why is truth so difficult to find in our society? Why do people resist so strongly? Provide three examples.
- 7) How does Jesus lead us to the Father? In what ways does He grant us access?
- 8) What is meant by the statement: The resurrection is not an event but rather a person?