

# Jesus' Great "I Am" Statements, Part 1:

## Introduction

In his Gospel, the Apostle John recorded Jesus' great "I AM" statements. These declarations are not recorded anywhere else in the New Testament. The statements help us, as Christians, to understand the nature of Christ and who he is – God incarnate.

For us to fully understand and appreciate Jesus' I AM declarations, we must look back to the Old Testament in the Book of Exodus. It was God who first revealed Himself to Moses by the name *I AM*. Shortly after God commissioned Moses to deliver God's people, the Jews who were enslaved in Egypt, Moses asked God how he should respond to people when they asked by whose authority was Moses sent. "God said to Moses, I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you'". (Exodus 3:14). The Jews had already known for centuries God's name "Jehovah", but Moses wanted to know what "Jehovah" meant. God explained that "Jehovah" means "to be" or "to become." God "is the self-existent One who always was, always is, and always will be, the faithful and dependable God who calls Himself 'I AM'". (Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary). Centuries later, Jesus would state repeatedly that he is "I Am." Jesus' "I am" statements are, in essence, Jesus' public declaration that he is God incarnate. Jesus' "I am" statements are:

- Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35)
- 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)
- "Very truly I tell you, Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)
- I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)
- "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

- Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26)
- Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)
- “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)

In these passages, Jesus explained that it is he who satisfies and sustains us (I am the Bread of Life); it is Jesus who shows us the way and gives wisdom and understanding (I am the Light of the World); it is Jesus who is one with God (before Abraham was born, I am); it is Jesus who provides eternal salvation for everyone who will accept it (I am the Gate); it is Jesus who died for us that we may have eternal salvation (I am the good shepherd); it is Jesus who has guaranteed our eternal life; therefore, we need not fear death (I am the resurrection and the life); it is Jesus who is the only way to be saved (I am the way, the truth, and the life); and that it is only the things we do for Jesus that ultimately matter (I am the vine, you are the branches). As we embark upon this study, we will examine what each statement means and how we can apply it to our life today. Join us for each installment in the series and be blessed by the great I Am!

When we choose Jesus, we become his children and we are who we are because of who Jesus is. What a blessing to have our identity rooted in the great I Am! That is one more reason to choose Jesus today!

*God bless.*