

## Is Jesus Your “I Am”?

Gospel of John

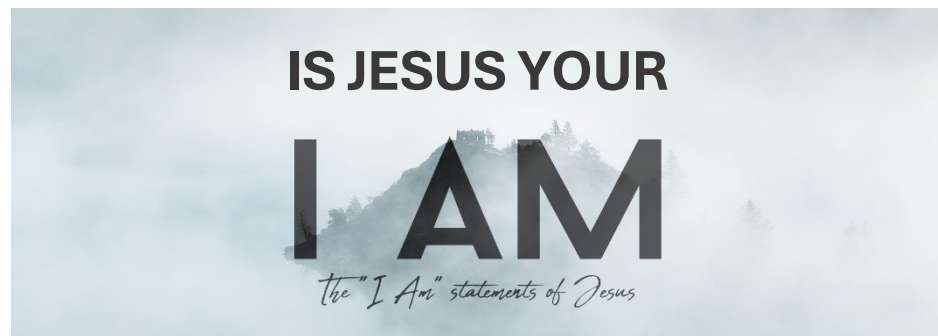
In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself as “I AM”. He is eternally existent, not bound by time: He was, is, and always will be, completely trustworthy! Jewish leaders were furious when Jesus co-opted the name, but He was revealing who He would be to all who believed in Him.

Jesus claims the Literal ‘Divine Name’ for Himself!

*John 8.58-59; 18.4-6*

Jesus’ Seven “I Am” Metaphors in John

- *“I am the bread of life” (John 6.35, 41, 48, 51)*
- *“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5)*
- *“I am the door” (John 10:7, 9)*
- *“I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11, 14)*
- *“I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)*
- *“I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6)*
- *“I am the true vine” (John 15:1, 5)*



1. In Exodus 3.14, God revealed His name to Moses: “I AM WHO I AM.” He instructed Moses that when the Israelites asked His name, to say, “I AM has sent me to you.” After 400 years slavery in Egypt, they might have wondered if God remembered them! What would this name signify to Israelites? What does it say about God and His relationship with and faithfulness to and care for His people?
2. After God revealed His name to Moses, it became so hallowed to the Jews that they would not utter it; God’s Law warned of judgment on any who misused it (Exod. 20.7; Lev. 24.16). Instead of saying the name, Jews to this day substitute “Adonai” for it when reading the Old Testament, or simply say “Hashem” (= “the name”). Jesus *twice* used this name of Himself! Do you understand why the Jews reacted the way they did in John 8.57-59? What did they realize Jesus was saying about Himself?! Do you understand why the Roman soldiers fell backward when Jesus uttered the name in John 18.6?
3. John records seven times Jesus ‘co-opted’ the divine name “I am” to metaphorically describe His ministry for the world. What does “I am the bread of life” signify? What miracle preceded Jesus saying this? How did Jesus explain it (see John 6)? How is Jesus “the light of the world”? What miracle did Jesus perform to illustrate what He could do for those who believed (see John 9)?
4. John 10 contains two metaphors – Jesus is “the door” and the “good shepherd.” What application do these designations have for unsaved people? What applications do they have for Christians?
5. John 11 records Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, before which He had a conversation with Martha. Read the entire conversation in John 11.21-27. What was her immediate concern? What was Jesus’ fuller meaning as “the resurrection and the life”?
6. Jesus’ last two “I am” sayings were to the disciples in the Upper Room (Jn. 14.6; 15.1,5). What assurance does the first give us? What is the tacit exhortation to us in the second?