

WHEN JESUS SAID, "I AM"

JESUS IDENTIFYING HIMSELF

"...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

~ John 8:24

1. Israel and I AM
 - a. Christians: "Jesus is God." Internet: *"When did Jesus ever declare himself to be God?"*
 - b. It is not an easy thing to say, "I am God". Saying it does not make it so.
 - c. Moses: Who are you? "I AM THAT I AM" - Exo 3:14, 6:3 → The Eternal, self-Existent One
 - d. In the beginning was God, the Word - Gen 1:1, 2:4, 15:2,4,7, John 1:1
 - e. When Jesus came in the flesh, he declared to be the pre-Existent one → John 8:54-59
 - f. God created Israel, showed himself to them in power, to later show himself in person
2. "I am the bread of life" – John 6:35
 - a. He multiplies loaves and fishes – John 6:14, then says "I am..." John 6:35
 - b. God gave manna to Israel (Exo 16), but they needed Him - John 6:25-35, 47-51
 - c. It was never about literal eating bread, but faith in words - Deu 8:3, Luk 4:4, John 6:63
3. "I am the light of the world" - John 8:12
 - a. The light of the world before the Sun → Gen 1:3, 2 Cor 4:4, 1Ti 6:16, John 1:4-5, 9
 - b. God gave Israel light in the dark, a lamp for their feet - Psa 119:105, Isa 49:6, 60:1-3
 - c. Jesus came to bring light on God - John 3:19-21, 12:44-46, Rev 21:23-25
4. "I am the door of the sheep" - John 10:7
 - a. God led Israel like sheep, but they went astray – Isa 53:6, Ps 79:13, 95:7, 100:3
 - b. A warning against false teachers and leaders (shepherds) - Eze 34:1-10, Jer 23:1-2
 - c. Jesus is the only way into the pasture (promised land to Israel) - Psa 23:2, Rom 15:8
5. "I am the good shepherd" – John 10:11
 - a. Jesus claims to be God b/c God is Israel's shepherd: Jer 23:3-8, Eze 34:11-18 & 28-31
 - b. Israel are the lost sheep - Mat 10:6 & 15:24, there is a remnant – Lk 12:32, Matt 26:31
 - c. Peter writes his letters to these people about their Shepherd - 1Pet 2:25
6. "I am the resurrection and the life" – John 11:25
 - a. Lazarus's death was so Jesus could display God's glory - John 11:1-7
 - b. Jesus is not teaching his death, burial, and resurrection, but proving his deity - Jn 11:27
 - c. He performs this miracle as a sign for unbelieving Jews: John 11:41-42, 1 Cor 1:22
7. "I am the way, the truth, and the life" – John 14:6
 - a. The way = hearing and following the commands of Word Ps 119:33-35, John 14:12, 15
 - b. The truth = found in Jesus, the Word of God – Psa 119:160, John 17:17
 - c. The life = Jesus is God, who grants eternal life (found in the word) - 1Jn 1:1, John 5:24
8. "I am the true vine" – John 15:1
 - a. Israel often referred to a vineyard in prophecy – e.g., Isa 5:1-7
 - b. The believing remnant are the branches - John 15:1-5, Mat 7:16-21, 12:33, 2Pet 1:8
 - c. Their fruit is important: their fruit requires faith and works - John 15:2 & 10, Eze 36:27

9. Jesus is the I AM

- a. The point of the book of John is to show that Jesus is God - John 20:30-31
- b. All of these "I am" 's are direct statements from Jesus declaring himself to be God
- c. Jesus, saying I AM is proof that he is God, but requires knowing the word - Col 1:16-17
- d. When Jesus was arrested he declared twice who he was – Isa 43:10, John 18:1-9
- e. They had only to believe. As we know, we must always ask... "Believe what?"
- f. For Israel, it was, Who is Jesus? Is he God manifest in the flesh? Jesus said, "I AM"
- g. Now, the whole world must know what he did by the cross.