

## JESUS IS GOD, HE IS MY FRIEND

### The I AM Series #7

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**TEXT:** John 10:22-30

**CONSIDER THIS:** Jesus is the **I AM** and He is my friend. Every Christian can truthfully say this. He is the shepherd-king. In today's study we will see how this is all beautifully connected. Jesus is God... He is the **I AM**... He is the Good Shepherd... He is the shepherd-king... and He calls me friend. It is good to be a Christian!

### I. THE I AM IS THE SHEPHERD-KING

- A) Jesus, the **I AM**, is the gate (door) for the sheep (John 10:7-9), and He is the good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:10,15).
- B) The Jews in Jesus's day would have had these three frames of reference:
  - 1. They were acquainted with literal sheep and shepherding
  - 2. They knew that their scriptures (our Old Testament) referred to sheep and shepherding hundreds of times, and that the majority of those references symbolized the leaders of Israel (kings, prophets, priests) as shepherds and the people of Israel as sheep
  - 3. They knew of the "shepherd-king" connection, especially King David
- C) As part of the John 10 narrative on Jesus as the shepherd, the Jews asked Him if He was claiming to be the "Messiah-king"

*So the Jews gathered around Him and said to Him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." John 10:24*

**NOTE:** In this context, the Jews were trying to get Jesus to say He is king, but their question did not come from a heart of faith

### II. THE SHEPHERD-KING IS RIGHTEOUS (and so am I)

- A) The discourse on the shepherd in John10 is "salvific" (about salvation from sin and the gift of Heaven). See John 10:9, 17, 28

**KEY:** The ultimate "green pastures" that Jesus leads His sheep to is Heaven itself. But there is a problem. Unrighteous sheep are not permitted in Heaven, and we are all unrighteous. See Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-12.

- B) Now read Jeremiah 23:1-6. This is huge!! Judah's sinful leaders ("shepherds") had led the nation on a path of destruction, provoking God's judgement. The scattering of the sheep refers

to the Babylonians destroying Jerusalem, the temple and Judah. Seventy years of captivity awaited the Jews.

*But in the midst of this darkness God makes a promise, "Behold, the days are coming..."*  
(Jeremiah 23:5-6)

C) Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gathers His sheep and clothes them in His righteousness. In Jeremiah 23:6 His name is Jehovah Tsidkenu (The LORD is our righteousness").

**DEFINITION:** Righteousness is to have a right standing/relationship with God by fulfilling the standards of God (but see Isaiah 64:6; Galatians 3:10-11).

D) Jesus does the work of Jehovah Tsidkenu in I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:20-26; Isaiah 61:10.

*He restores my soul, He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*  
Psalm 23:3

And now let us stop a moment and think over this whole title- "The Lord our righteousness." Brethren, the Law-giver has himself obeyed the law. Jehovah has himself become man that so he may do man's work: think that he has done it imperfectly? Do you not think that his obedience will be sufficient? Jehovah has himself become a man that so he may do man's work: think you that he done it imperfectly? Jehovah- he who girds the angels that excel in strength-has taken upon him the form of a servant that he may become obedient: think you that his service will be incomplete? Let the fact that the Saviour is Jehovah strengthen your confidence. Be ye bold. Be ye very courageous. Face heaven, and earth, and hell with the challenge of the apostle. "Who shall Lay anything to the charge of God's elect?" Look back upon your past sins, look upon your present infirmities, and all your future errors, and while you weep the tears of repentance, let no fear of damnation blanch your cheek. You stand before God today robed in your Saviour's garments, "with his spotless vestments on, holy as the Holy One." Not Adam when he walked in Eden's bowers was more accepted than you are, -- not more pleasing to the eye of the all-judging, the sin-hating God than you are if clothed in Jesus' righteousness and sprinkled with his blood. You have a better righteousness than Adam had. He had a human righteousness; your garments are divine. He had a robe complete, it is true, but the earth had woven it. You have a garment as complete, but heaven has made it for you to wear. Go up and down in the strength of this great truth and boast exceedingly, and glory in your God; and let this be on the top and summit of your heart and soul;" Jehovah, the Lord our righteousness."

You will remember that in Scripture, Christ's righteousness is compared to fair white linen; then I am, if I wear it, without spot. It is compared to wrought gold; then I am, if I wear it, dignified and beautiful, and worthy to sit at the wedding feast of the King of kings. It is compared in the parable of the prodigal son, to the best robe; then I wear a better robe than angels have, for they have not the best; but I, poor prodigal, once clothed in rage, companion to the nobility of the pig sty, -- I fresh from the husks that swine do eat, am nevertheless clothed in the best robe, and am so accepted in the Beloved. -- Charles Spurgeon