

JESUS IS GOD, HE IS MY FRIEND

The I AM Series #4

January 18th, 2026

TEXT: John 8:12

CONSIDER THIS: The “I AM” statements Jesus made about Himself are truly astonishing. The disciples once fearfully asked, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (Mark 4:37-41). In today’s text it is just as amazing to hear Jesus say, “I AM the light of the world.” May God give us understanding and insight as we study this great proclamation and revelation of Jesus. And then may we joyfully marvel to think that He who is “the light of the world” **calls us friend** (John 15:15).

KEY: Implicit within the “I AM” names of Jesus is an invitation to us, though we be sinners, to enter into a personal relationship with Him that brings forgiveness for our sins and an eternal home in Heaven. **Amazing!**

I. LET THERE BE LIGHT

- A) Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” in John 8:12 and 9:5. But John introduced this truth at the very beginning of his gospel in John 1:1-9. This is huge!
- B) John 1:1 harkens us back to Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning”. Notice the significance of light in Genesis 1:3-5. There was light beginning on the first day of creation, but there was no sun or stars until the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19). In the new heaven and new earth there will be light, but there will be no sun (Revelation 21:1; 22-23).

And He calls us friend!

Q: What is light?

A: Supposedly, light is electromagnetic energy that makes things visible. It is what allows us to see the world. Light can come from nuclear energy (the sun), electrical energy (lightning), or chemical energy (fire).

Q: What is darkness?

A: Darkness is not a thing, it is the absence of light. The Bible describes spiritual darkness as being blind to God’s light and truth, and being a prisoner in Satan’s domain.

The **physical** properties of light teach and illustrate great **spiritual** truths. Jesus is the light of the world.

II. THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

- A) The setting for Jesus saying, "I AM the light of the world" was the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (John 7:1-14). It commemorated Israel's experience in the wilderness after the exodus (Leviticus 23:33-44).
- B) This began the final period of Jesus's life on earth. The next feast day would be the Passover feast during which Jesus was arrested and crucified.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

- C) During the Feast of tabernacles there were two major events
 - 1. The High Priest would pour out a libation (offering) of water. How profound that Jesus used this occasion to offer spiritual drink to those who thirst (John 7:37-38).
 - 2. Huge menorahs (torches) were lit in the temple court and the light illuminated much of Jerusalem. In the midst of this Jesus said, "I AM the light of the world" (John 8:12).

III. WALK IN THE LIGHT

- A) To trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior and to follow Him is to walk in the light. Sixty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the very elderly apostle John wrote I John 1:1-7.
- B) Christian, keep putting the realm of darkness behind you, and follow Christ's light (I John 2:7-11). Jesus, the light of the world, shall be the Lord of your homes, your families, your relationships, your priorities, your ambitions and your decisions.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:4-5

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
John 8:12