

JESUS IS GOD, HE IS MY FRIEND

The I AM Series #5

January 25th, 2026

TEXT: John 10:1-9

CONSIDER THIS: Throughout John's gospel Jesus teaches great spiritual truths by using metaphors from the physical world. This is true of each of the I AM statements. In today's text we will see a powerful and comforting description of the I AM as being a gate. There is nothing better than being a Christian!

I. I AM THE GATE (John 10:7)

KEY: Jesus is the **I AM** (John 8:58). That gives Him the right to claim 100% exclusivity. How ridiculous are the world's objections to exclusivity when it is the **I AM** who is making the claim. C.S. Lewis was right. Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic or He is Lord. There are no other options.

- A) Other "messiahs" or teachers who do not know Jesus are thieves and robbers (10:1, 10A)
- B) The imagery here is amazing. In Jesus's day there were two types of sheep pens
 1. In an isolated area, for one single flock
 2. In a crowded area, for several flocks kept together overnight. Jesus makes use of both in John 10
- C) The gate/door was the shepherd himself... The following excerpt is taken from R. Kent Hughes' commentary on John:

When G. Campbell Morgan was traveling the Atlantic on a steamer, he noticed that among the passengers was Sir George Adam Smith, the most famous Old Testament scholar at the time. The greatest preacher of the day (Morgan) and the greatest Old Testament scholar (Smith) had a great time as they traveled together. Morgan said that among the tales Sir George told of the East was this one:

He was one day traveling with a guide, and came across a shepherd and his sheep. He fell into conversation with him. The man showed him the fold into which the sheep were led at night. It consisted of four walls, with a way in. Sir George said to him, "That is where they go at night?" "Yes," said the shepherd, "and when they are in there, they are perfectly safe." "But there is no door," said Sir George. "I am the door" said the shepherd. He was not a Christian man, he was speaking in the language of the New Testament. He was speaking from the Arab shepherd's standpoint. Sir George looked at him and said, "What do you mean by the door?" Said the shepherd, "When the light has gone, and all the sheep are inside, I lie in the open space, and no sheep ever goes out but across my body, and no wolf comes in unless he crosses my body; I am the door."

D) Christian, what does this say about the **I AM**'s love for you?

Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to Heaven
because He is the **I AM** and the gate.

II. THE NATURE OF SHEEP

A) Sheep are among the dumbest of all 4 legged mammals. They are prone to wander, and because they are defenseless and physically “unathletic” they get themselves into all kinds of trouble. They will also consume poisonous plants and water.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – everyone – to his own way.
(Isaiah 53:6A)

B) See I Peter 2:24-25; Jeremiah 50:6, 17; Romans 3:23

III. THE NATURE OF THE SHEPHERD

A) We must listen to the right voice! The Bible reportedly speaks against false shepherds and teachers. They do great damage (Jeremiah 23:1-2; Matthew 24:4-5, 11)

B) The shepherd doesn't drive his sheep, he calls them to follow him to the pastures he has prepared (10:3, 9). See also Isaiah 40:11.

C) Jesus puts sheep in the best possible light when He describes them as following the voice of their shepherd, who calls them by name (John 10:3-10). **This is the beautiful relationship pictured in Psalm 23.**

What a great combination. The gate/door for us
is the **I AM**. It is good to be a Christian!