

# The Great I Am

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## I Am The Root & The Bright Morning Star

(Rv 22:16)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "The Great I Am."
  - a. We looked last week at what Jesus described Himself when He said...
    - i. I am the Alpha & the Omega
      1. **Rv 1:8** "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"<sup>1</sup>
    - b. Today we are going to look at how Jesus described Himself in **Rv 22:16**.
      - i. "...I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."
3. These two terms "root & star" have been used as metaphors for Christ before.
  - a. Root
    - i. **Is 11:1-2** "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."
    - ii. **Rv 5:5** "And one of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'"
  - b. Star
    - i. **Nu 24:17** "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."
    - ii. **II Pt 1:19** "And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"
4. Never however do we find these two together.
  - a. "Can anyone imagine two things more unlike than a root and a star? This proves that the Holy Spirit gave these words, for no man would ever have dared to describe the Lord in one breath as a root and a star." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
5. Let us than examine what has only now been placed together to see the import of the contrasting metaphors.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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## I. Near & Far

- A. Roots, even the deepest are not too deep to measure
  - 1. The Shepherd's Tree for example has been measured to have roots that reach 223ft deep.
- B. Stars, many however, are too far away to even measure
  - 1. The furthest the Hubble Telescope has measured is 13.1 billion light years away.
- C. Christ also is near and far
  - 1. **Mt 18:32** "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
  - 2. **He 1:3** "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"

## II. Visible & Invisible

- A. Roots are mostly invisible but the stars shine brightly
  - 1. "The root is hidden beneath our feet, but the star blazes forth in the sky." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
- B. Christ also is visible & invisible
  - 1. **Ro 1:19-20** "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

## III. Earthly & Heavenly

- A. The root is of the earth while the star is far in the heavens
  - 1.
- B. Christ is perfect man and perfect God
  - 1. His perfect humanity is clearly seen.
    - i. **Jn 1:14** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
    - ii. **He 5:8-9** "Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him"
  - 2. His perfection as God is clearly seen.
    - i. **Jn 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
    - ii. **Jn 17:5** "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

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## IV. Local & Universal

- A. A root is fixed and slow
  - 1. "It cannot move, except to creep a short distance from its humble beginning...a root may be localized and contained in an earthen jar" (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
- B. A star is moving and fast
  - 1. "a star sweeps through the outer reaches of the universe in an orbit of incomprehensible distances. Its light travels 186,200 miles per second, and that for one million years at a time...a star rises for the whole world to see and hangs a blazing lantern in the sky where none can miss it." (Ibid)
- C. Christ also is both local and universal
  - 1. To individuals Christ is our...
    - i. Savior
      - a. **Ep 5:23** "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior."
    - ii. Shepherd
      - a. **I Pt 5:4** "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."
    - iii. Rock
      - a. **I Co 10:4** "and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."
  - 2. To the world He is...
    - i. The Alpha & Omega
      - a. **Rv 1:8** "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,'" says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"
    - ii. The preeminent
      - a. **Co 1:17-18** "And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."

## V. Small & Big

- A. Roots can be so small one can barely see it
  - 1. The peanut plant we planted has some very small roots.
- B. Stars are huge
  - 1. NML Cygni is a red hypergiant star.
  - 2. It is 1650 times bigger than our sun.
    - i. That means 1,650,000,000 earths can fit in it.
- C. Christ also is small and big
  - 1. He was so small He fit in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes.
    - i. **Lk 2:7** "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

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2. He is so big that time and space cannot contain Him.
  - i. **Ep 1:11** "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will"

## VI. High & Low

- A. Roots grow down low while stars shine high from above
  - 1.
- B. Christ is both high and low
  1. Song: There's Not A Friend Like The Lowly Jesus
    - i. There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus
    - ii. No friend like him is so high and holy
    - iii. And yet no friend is so meek and lowly
  2. **Is 52:13** "Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted."
  3. **Ph 2:8** "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

## VII. Needing Nothing & Needing Man

- A. A root needs things from man to flourish
  1. It needs water and cultivation.
- B. A star needs nothing from man to flourish
  1. It is self sustaining.
- C. Christ also needs nothing from man and yet needs man
  1. Christ does not need man to exist as He has always been.
    - i. **Jn 8:58** "Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.""
  2. Christ does need man too though.
    - i. **Mt 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
    - ii. **I Jn 4:12** "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."

## CONCLUSION

1. C.S. Lewis once wrote, " I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (<http://goo.gl/ayokj>)

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2. Question: Do you know Christ?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**