

— A BIBLE STUDY ON —

JESUS'

“*I Am*”

STATEMENTS



SEVEN DECLARATIONS. ONE SAVIOR.



TODAY'S SESSION

What is in a Name?

Kicking off our summer series on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus.

*“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose
by any other name would smell as sweet.”*

JULIET · ROMEO AND JULIET

IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST...

To utter the name was to claim authority.

*To speak the name of a person — or a deity — was to claim authority over them.

*So the revelation of the name of the Lord in Exodus 3 was significant, and the precautions against pronouncing the Tetragrammaton are extensive.

A Q U E S T I O N

Do Christians call the Lord Yahweh,
Jehovah, or Adonai?

In the ESV (The LORD)

The “I Am” Revelation

Exodus 3.

Verses 1–6 and 13–18.

EXODUS 3:1-3

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”

EXODUS 3:4-6

⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

EXODUS 3:13-14

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM .” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘ I AM has sent me to you.’”

EXODUS 3:15

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

EXODUS 3:16 – 17

¹⁶ “Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt,
¹⁷ and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

EXODUS 3:18

¹⁸ “And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.’”

TWO QUESTIONS OF THE TEXT

Why does Moses ask for the name?

What is God's response?

THE NATURE OF YAHWEH

I am who I am.

The self-existent one. God needs no one.

His existence is not dependent. It is not derivative.

An example — the name “Samuel Porcher Gaillard, IV.”

IN THE GREEK

Ego eimi — “I am.”

First person singular of the verb *to be*.

John’s Gospel is arranged around *seven signs* and *seven “I am” sayings* — together a revelation of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

WHY “I AM” IS BLASPHEMY

Jesus and the High Priest.

Why is uttering “I am” on the lips of Jesus an act worthy of death in the eyes of the Sanhedrin?

MARK 14:60-62

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”

61 But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”

62 And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

MARK 14:63-64

⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need?”

⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What do you think?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.

THE SEVEN “I AM” SAYINGS IN JOHN

John 6:35	the bread of life.
John 8:12	the light of the world.
John 10:7–9	the gate, the door.
John 10:11	the Good Shepherd.
John 11:25–27	the Resurrection and the Life.
John 14:6	the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
John 15:5	the Vine.

J O H N 6 : 3 5

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

J O H N 8 : 1 2

¹² 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.”

J O H N 1 0 : 7 – 9

7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”

J O H N 1 0 : 1 1

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

J O H N 1 1 : 2 5 – 2 7

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

J O H N 1 4 : 6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

J O H N 1 5 : 5 – 6

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Each saying is rooted in the Old Testament
— and in the story of Israel.

Over the summer we will explore those roots in the past —

and see how each “I am” statement is a revelation of the
great *I Am*.

Our Process

- 1) How are they a fulfillment (focus on the Old Testament references)?
- 2) How are they a present reality for the disciples (and us) with Jesus?
- 3) How are they a future hope to be fully understood in glory (several references in Revelation)?

Three

Applications for Today.

APPLICATION · ONE

The Third Commandment.

How do we handle the name of God?

And how do we profane it?

APPLICATION · TWO

Our names — and the importance of each of us
to the Father. Isaiah 49:16, John 10:3

APPLICATION · THREE

Our worship and the great “I Am.”

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