

The Seven I Am's

**TEXT- John 6:30-40, 35** *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

**INTRO – The number 7 in the Bible is the number of completion and perfection,**

Our first introduction to God as 'I AM' is when He spoke with Moses

**Exodus 3:13** *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?*

**Exodus 3:14** *And God said unto Moses, "I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."* 'I AM' is a clear declaration, a statement of who God is.

Jesus made a statement about Himself to the Jewish people, it was a very profound statement as He not only claims His existence before Abraham some 2000 years previous, but also as He equates Himself with God in His reference to Exodus 3:14.

**John 8:58-59** *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

Throughout the Gospel of John there are seven other times that Jesus uses the 'I AM' statement about Himself. The declarations not only tell us who Jesus is, His character and purpose, but it also affirms His status as God Himself and His work in the lives of His people.

**I. I am the bread of life (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51).** In this chapter, Jesus establishes a pattern that continues through John's gospel—Jesus makes a statement about who He is, and He backs it up with something He does. In this case, Jesus states that He is the bread of life just after He had fed the 5,000 in the wilderness.

He contrasts what He can do with what Moses had done for their ancestors:

**John 6:49-50** *Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.*

**Jesus is the source for all that we need.**

Bread in the Bible is the symbol of spiritual life. People all over the world are the same; they have an inborn hunger for something, and that something is Christ. People cannot be satisfied with anything less than Christ.

**II. I am the light of the world John 8:12; 9:5.** This second of Jesus' "I am" statements in John's gospel comes right before He heals a man born blind. Jesus not only says He is the light; He proves it. Jesus' words and actions echo **Genesis 1:3**, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." **John 1:1-9** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

**Light brings clarity. It enables us to see things we couldn't see. We can see who Jesus is and who we are. We see that we are lost sinners. This is called illumination.**

**Light removes the darkness. People live in darkness and Satan's realm.** **Ephesians 5:8** *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

**Ephesians 5:11** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

**Ephesians 6:12** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

**How many bad things take place in the darkness?**

**III. I am the door - John 10:7, 9** This "I am" statement stresses that no one can enter the kingdom of heaven by any other means than Christ Himself. He is the one and only way to enter the fold. **John 10:1** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

There is no real break between chapter 9 and 10, it's the same day, the same scene, the same people, and Jesus responding to the same event. Chapter 9 was about a man born blind who had become a beggar, and Jesus gave him his sight. The leaders of Israel threw the beggar out and they intended to kill Jesus. The leaders of Israel are false shepherds, who fleece their people. If anyone goes literally through me, passes through me, he will be saved. This is the saving shepherd. "He'll be saved, and – " then he's free to " - go in and out and find pasture." This we could say is the liberty that we enjoy. We can enjoy the common grace of God that's dispersed throughout the world. Can anything separate us? Romans 8. Absolutely nothing can separate us from Christ.

**IV. I am the good shepherd” John 10:11, 14** Jesus is the One who willingly protects His flock even to the point of death (verses 11 and 15). When Jesus called Himself the good shepherd, He unmistakably took for Himself one of God’s titles in the Old Testament: “*The Lord is my shepherd*” **Psalm 23:1**.

**Jesus watches over us even when we are not aware of His presence.**

**Hebrews 13:20-21** *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- **He watches over His flock**
- **His sheep know His voice and follow Him.**
- **He gave His life for the sheep.**

**V. I am the resurrection and the life” John 11:25.** Jesus made this statement immediately before raising Lazarus from the dead. **Revelation 1:18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

In raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed how He can fulfill God’s promise to Israel: **Isaiah 26:19** *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

**Apart from Jesus, there is neither resurrection nor eternal life.**

**1 Corinthians 15:19-20** *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

**VI. I am the way and the truth and the life John 14:6.** Jesus is not merely one way among many ways to God; **He is the only way.** Jesus is saying that He is the truth—confirming His identity as the Word of God. **John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. And Jesus alone is the source of life; He is the Creator and Sustainer of all life and the Giver of eternal life.*

**VII. I am the true vine John 15:1, 5** The final metaphorical “I am” statement in the Gospel of John emphasizes the sustaining power of Christ. We are the branches, and He is the vine. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit unless it is joined in vital union with the vine, only those who are joined to Christ and receive their power from Him produce fruit in the Christian life.

**CONCL –** There are two more “I am” statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. **John 8:58-59** *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

The second instance of Jesus applying to Himself the name *I AM* comes in the Garden of Gethsemane. When the mob came to arrest Jesus, He asked them whom they sought. **John 18:4-5** *Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.*

**Paul’s Three I AM’s - Romans 1:14-16** *I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*