

John 10:7–10

I AM the Door Pt 2

John 10:7–21 (NKJV)

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Introduction

In today’s culture, claims of exclusivity are met with the resistance of a tired toddler pushing back a plate of broccoli. This is especially true of religious claims. Religious pluralism is more palatable for Western society and this worldview rules the day.

Pluralism posits that there is more than one valid religion and that no single religion has a monopoly on truth. It asserts that there are many paths up the same mountain. Ultimately,

so the claim goes, we'll all meet at the top in our respective spiritual journeys.

When it comes to religion, the word *exclusive* is synonymous with *bigot*. Even worse, Christians who communicate the exclusivity of their faith are castigated and dismissed.

When a religion claims to have the market cornered on divine inspiration, it's disconcerting. Our culture is more comfortable with the blind men and the elephant analogy—where each religion represents a blind man touching a different part of an elephant, never having the whole picture.

This analogy positions those who take the pluralist position as having the full view of the "elephant." Ironically, this position leads to its own truth claims. In fact, the pluralism perspective finds itself steeped in the same intolerance and exclusivity that it despises and rejects. *We know the truth...and it is found in a little bit of every religion. Embrace it. Live it.*

Anyone who thinks differently is closed-minded.

The gospel is an exclusive message in an inclusive world. And we're called to share that exclusive Jesus with others. Truth and exclusivity are not mutually exclusive. As Walter Martin notes in his seminal work

The Kingdom of Cults, “Truth by definition is exclusive. If truth were all-inclusive, nothing would be false.”

John C. Richards is Managing Director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College.

Albert Mohler said liberal Christianity has dealt with the claim by moving toward universalism, the belief that eventually all persons are saved, or, more commonly, inclusivism, which assumes that all world religions point to a common truth that at the end of the day will be discovered to have been Christ.

Since Vatican II, he said, the Roman Catholic Church has viewed the followers of other faiths as “anonymous Christians.”

More recently, he said, the notion has reared its head among people who call themselves evangelicals.

One example, he said, is Rob Bell’s book *Love Wins*, which speaks of a “hopeful universalism.”

“Is just not true to Scripture,” Mohler said. “It’s not true to the teaching of Christ. It’s not true to the teaching of the apostles, and we dare not be playful with what the Scripture tells us is the message of salvation. The consequences are eternal.”

Another evangelical author, Brian McLaren, wrote in his book *A Generous Orthodoxy*, “I don’t believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion.”

“All that stands between that statement and the truth is the New Testament,” Mohler said.

Mohler said such proposals work fine “if we don’t need a savior, but we do, and there is only one savior. Salvation is in his name alone.”

“If all we need is a teacher of enlightenment, the Buddha will do,” Mohler said. “If all we need is a collection of gods for every occasion and need and hope, Hinduism will do. If all we need is a tribal deity, then any tribal deity will do. If all we need is a lawgiver, Moses will do. If all we need is a set of rules and a way of devotion, Muhammad or Joseph Smith will do. If all we need is inspiration and insight into the sovereign self, for crying out loud, Oprah will do. But if we need a savior, only Jesus will do.”

Lesson:

I. The Only Shepherd

10 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens.

II. The Only Sheep

3b The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

- 1. The Sheep are called by the Shepherd***
- 2. The Sheep hear and know the voice of the Shepherd***
- 3. The Sheep Follow the Shepherd***
- 4. The Sheep will not follow a Stranger***

III. The Only Door

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly

1. The Exclusivity of the Door

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

Εἶπεν οὖν πάλιν ὁ Ἰησοῦς Ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐγὼ εἶμι ἡ θύρα τῶν προβάτων.

John 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**”

John 8:23: And He said to them, "You are from beneath; **I AM from above.** You are of this world; I am not of this world.

John 8:12: Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I AM the light of the world.** He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**"

John 10:7 and 9: "**I AM the door.** If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

John 10:11: "**I AM the good shepherd.** The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 11:25: Jesus said to her, "**I AM the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "**I AM the way, the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 15:1: "**I AM the true vine,** and My Father is the vinedresser.

Exodus 3:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your

fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

Exodus 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: **The Lord 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 this *is* My memorial to all generations.’

אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה

Ehyeh asher Ehyeh (Eh-yea)

possible translations:

I will exist because I will exist

I exist because I exist

I will be who I will be

I am that which exist

I AM who I AM

The most common and the most important name for God in the Old Testament is a name that in our English versions never even gets translated. Whenever you see the word LORD in all capital letters, you know that this name is behind it. In Hebrew the name had four letters — YHWH — and may have been pronounced something like *Yahweh*. The Jews came to regard this word with such reverence that they would never take it upon their lips, lest they inadvertently take the name in vain. So whenever they came to this name in their reading, they pronounced the word *adonai* which means *my lord*. The English versions have basically followed the same pattern. They translate the proper name *Yahweh* with the word LORD in all caps.

This approach is not a very satisfactory thing to do, because the English word LORD does not communicate to our ears a proper name like John or Michael or Noël. But *Yahweh* is God's proper name in Hebrew. The importance of it can be seen in the sheer frequency of its use. It occurs 6,828 times in the Old Testament

But then Moses asks something that might, at first glance, seem strange. He wants to know God's name. The reason he asks for God's name is because, as we see in the Old Testament, the name of someone often designates the character of the person. Moses is asking God for a revelation of His character so that Israel may know that the One who has called Moses is sufficient. He is able to achieve the deliverance promised.

The name that God gives to Moses—"I AM WHO I AM"—is a revelation of God's utter and complete self-sufficiency. It is a revelation of God's *aseity*. He alone is of Himself (a se). God, and only God, is dependent on nothing. And this means, for Moses and for Israel, that God is not dependent on Pharaoh's cooperation to accomplish what He has promised.

This name of God—"I Am"—is the root form of the name Yahweh. John Calvin rightly says that this name is given to us in the Old Testament "that our minds may be filled with admiration as often as his incomprehensible essence is mentioned." That "incomprehensible essence," given in the name Yahweh

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

In vv. 1–5, Jesus the shepherd enters the sheep pen through the gate; here, he is the gate.

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 384). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

Sometimes the shepherd slept in the opening of the sheepfold to guard the sheep. No one could enter or leave except through him. In Jesus’ metaphor He is the **door** through which the **sheep** enter the safety of God’s fold and go out to the rich pasture of His blessing. It is through Him that lost sinners can approach the Father and appropriate the salvation He provides; Only Jesus is the true source of the knowledge of God and salvation, and the basis for spiritual security.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). *John 1–11* (p. 430). Chicago: Moody Press.

Jesus then developed the shepherd/sheep figure of speech in another way. After a shepherd’s flock has been separated from the other **sheep**, he takes them to pasture.

Near the pasture is an enclosure for the sheep. The shepherd takes his place in the doorway or entrance and functions as a door or **gate**. The sheep

can go out to the pasture in front of the enclosure, or if afraid, they can retreat into the security of the enclosure. The spiritual meaning is that Jesus is **the only Gate** by which people can enter into God's provision for them.

Blum, E. A. (1985). [John](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 310). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

John 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus.

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

The Lord's assertion does not, of course, include Israel's true spiritual leaders (such as Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, among many others). Jesus was referring to Israel's false shepherds—her wicked kings, corrupt priests, false prophets, and pseudo-messiahs.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). [John 1-11](#) (p. 430). Chicago: Moody Press.

These are the ones that came in over the wall.
 The “All who came to the sheepfold before the true Shepherd got there” These are all the ones that came with the false religion of Works
 Legalistic law keeping.
 Pharisaical legalism
 Works Righteousness

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

However, **the true sheep did not hear them; they did not heed them and were not led astray by them**

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). [John 1-11](#) (p. 430). Chicago: Moody Press.

This is a most amazing statement

That with all the false prophets and false teacher and false messiahs

Not ONE sheep was let astray !!!!

John 10:5 (NKJV)

5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 10:27 (NKJV)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 10:28 (NKJV)

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

This clearly is statement of the absolute nature of the building of the church

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified

Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be

condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Exclusivity of the Door

2. The Salvific Nature of the Door

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

I am the door. He repeats the emphatic statements of Exclusive nature but he adds a term that clearly refers to what He has in mind.

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

If anyone enters by me,

What kind of gate

1. A narrow and difficult gate

Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2. An Impossible gate

Matthew 19:23–26 (NKJV)

²³ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶ But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

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

saved

sōzō (from *sōs*, "safe, rescued") – properly, *deliver* out of danger and *into safety*; used principally of God *rescuing* believers *from* the penalty and power of sin – *and into His provisions (safety)*.

[4982 (*sōzō*) is the root of: 4990 /*sōtér* ("Savior"), 4991 /*sōtēría* ("salvation") and the adjectival form, 4992 /*sōtérion* (what is "saved/rescued *from* destruction *and* brought *into* divine safety").]

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 5:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

Acts 2:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ *The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of
the Lord.*

²¹ *And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.'*

Acts 2:46–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 16:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Romans 5:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to

God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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

Christ's sheep will experience God's love, forgiveness, and salvation; they will **go in and out** freely, always having access to God's blessing and protection, and never fearing any harm or danger. They will find satisfying **pasture** as the Lord feeds them (cf. Ps. 23:1–3; Ezek. 34:15) on His Word (cf. Acts 20:32).

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly

In utter contrast to the thieving false shepherds who, like their father the devil (8:44) came **only to steal and kill and destroy** the sheep,

Steal

kléptō – to take, steal *secretively* (by stealth). See 2812 (*kleptēs*).

Kill

Original Word: θύω

Transliteration: thuó

Phonetic Spelling: (thoo'-o)

2380 *thýō* – to kill *as a sacrifice and offer on an altar*. 2380 /*thýō* ("sacrifice") means more than "kill" as it also suggests *offering something as a spiritual sacrifice*.

Destroy

apóllymi (from 575 /apó, "away from," which intensifies *ollymi*, "to destroy") – properly, *fully* destroy, cutting off *entirely* (note the force of the prefix, 575 /apó).

622 /apóllymi ("violently/completely perish") implies *permanent* (absolute) destruction, i.e. to cancel out (remove); "to die, with the implication of ruin and *destruction*" (L & N, 1, 23.106); cause to be *lost* (*utterly* perish) by experiencing a miserable end.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly

John 8:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly

Perissos (**abundantly**): more, greater, excessive, abundant, exceedingly, vehemently; noun: preeminence, advantage.

perissós (an adjective, derived from [4012](#) /*perí*, "all-around, excess") – properly *all-around*, "more than" ("abundantly"); beyond what is anticipated, exceeding expectation; "more abundant," going past the expected limit ("*more than enough . . .*"). See [4052](#) (*perisseuō*). **came that they may have** spiritual and eternal **life** (cf. John 5:21; 6:33, 51–53, 57; Rom. 6:4; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:1, 5; Col. 2:13), **and have it abundantly**.

Perissos (**abundantly**) describes something that goes far beyond what is necessary. The matchless gift of eternal life exceeds all expectation (cf. John 4:10 with 7:38; see also Rom. 8:32; 2 Cor. 9:15).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). *John 1–11* (pp. 430–431). Chicago: Moody Press.

Ephesians 3:14–20 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts

through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But as it is written:

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who
love Him.”*

¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.