

JESUS IS THE GREAT “I AM”

“I AM” means “to be”. God just is! God told Moses that His eternal name is “I AM” (Ex. 3:13-15). He is the eternal/unchanging God! Every knowledgeable Jew knew that God was “I AM”. Enter Jesus...

When Jesus came to earth He claimed to be “I AM”. In the book of John, there are 7 “I AM” statements.

The Seven “I am” Statements in John:

- 1) I am the Bread of Life – 6:35
- 2) I am the Light of the World – 8:12
- 3) I am the Door – 10:7, 9
- 4) I am the Good Shepherd – 10:11, 14
- 5) I am the Resurrection and the Life – 11:25
- 6) I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – 14:6
- 7) I am the True Vine – 15:1, 5

Jesus made it clear that true faith means we must recognize Him as the eternal “I AM”.

John 8:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**

The Jews clearly understood Jesus to be saying that He was the eternal God as revealed to Moses in Exodus 3, and therefore, they went about to try and stone Him for what they considered to be blasphemy.

John 8:58–59 (NKJV)

58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**”

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

8 Jesus Christ is **the same** yesterday, today, and forever.

Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

For the enlightened mind, nothing could be more clear than the fact that Jesus is the eternal I AM as revealed to Moses (cf. Jer. 23:6, 33:16). The eternal God is in an eternal covenant relationship with Israel and He has revealed Himself most fully and finally in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the GREAT I AM!

In 1715, King Louis the 14th of France died after a reign of 72 years. He had called himself “the Great” and was the monarch who made the famous statement: “I am the state!” His court was the most magnificent in Europe.

But one day, he died!!!

However, he had planned out every detail of his funeral to be as self-serving and self-exalting as his life had been. His body lay in state in a golden coffin. Orders were given that the cathedral should be very dimly lit with a lone special candle set above his coffin to dramatize his greatness.

At the memorial service, thousands waited in hushed silence for the service to begin. Then, out of the shadows stepped the pastor, (Bishop Massilon) – he bent down, snuffed out the candle, and said, “**Only God is great.**”

Indeed, ONLY GOD IS THE ETERNAL I AM. Only He is ETERNALLY GREAT, as revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Ex. 3); as revealed to His PEOPLE Israel in the Exodus; and as revealed in the PERSON of Jesus the Messiah coming to earth. This is the ONE true God – the God of the Bible! He is the God of eternity, the God of Israel, and the God of the Church. To Him ALONE be all glory forever!