

"I Am Who I Am!"

Coulter's Community Church of God (Seventh Day), August 20, 2005

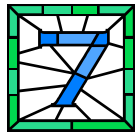
Quote for this week: "Science can only go so far, then their is God."

~"The Way, the Truth and the Life."~

Who do we go to and who do we depend on for all aspects of our life? Is it someone else or maybe ourselves? Or do we depend on and seek out Jesus Christ for any and all situations in life? For Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."



Well, that pretty well covers all of the aspects of living. "The Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)



Let us ask the question today, who are we and what am I, because of Christ? What did Jesus say He was? In the book of John there were seven Great I Am. Today we want to go over these seven "Great I Am." They may just be the answer to one of your prayers.

I'm sure we all know these verses, but this is just a reminder of what God is and what we should be, only and because of Him.

Let the scriptures speak to you today, not me, but the Scriptures, the Holy Word of God. I'm just His lowly servant.

Let us Pray!

But before we get to John, let us look at Exodus 3:14; *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

[EXODUS 3:14] [NAS]

The Lord said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." That says a lot about the Lord. He is who He is! He is never changing, always correct and always perfect in everyway. You can't improve on perfect. We were born in sin and are seeking perfection. How many believe that today?

I heard a wonderful quote the other day, the announcer said, "The Word exposes us to what we really are." Did you get that? The Word, the Scriptures, The Bible exposes us for what we really are. The Word is the standard for which we are judged and which should rule our daily life, so it has to expose us for what we really are. We will be judged in the end by

His Word, God's Word. The final judgment! It doesn't matter about what society or what the world thinks about you and your ways, it only matters what God's Word says we are to do.



Then in Exodus 3:15, *God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons 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 this is My memorial-name to all generations. [EXODUS 3:15] [NAS]*

The name, "I AM WHO I AM," expresses the character and faithfulness of God. Even the scribes and Pharisees in the New Testament knew about the Great I AM. They knew the Old Testament inside and out since they were scholars of the writings of Moses and other prophets at that time. They did know the law, but apparently they didn't know God.

In John 8:58-59, Jesus applied the phrase, "I AM" to himself; in so doing claimed to be God and risked being stoned to death. Death by stoning was the penalty for blasphemy. This was blasphemy in the eyes of the scribes and Pharisees. Let us look at these verses; JOHN 8:58, *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."* 59 *Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. (NAS)*

By expressing or saying "I AM" He was expressing the eternity of His being and His oneness with God. Jesus didn't say, I was, or while here on earth or anything else, but He said "I AM." A direct reference to the Exodus 3:14 where God told Moses, "I AM has sent me to you." If you continue reading the eighth chapter of John, you will see that the Jews were questioning every word that Jesus spoke. Finally He told them like it was, "I AM" in the oneness and likeness of God. This really set the scribes and Pharisees on fire even to the point of stoning Jesus while in the temple. But, His time was not yet; He had His mission to accomplish here on earth. Even though they knew the Law of Moses and the Old Testament they did not recognize the coming Savior. That Savior was Jesus Christ, as foretold all through the Old Testament. They were too caught up in their legalist ways and man's interpretation of the Word. As the saying does, "they could not see the forest for the trees."

You see, in the New Testament when Jesus said "I Am" it was more than just a phrase, it was official and in oneness with God. If Jesus said it "you can bank on it or take it to the

bank” as the saying goes. So as we go over these seven Great I Am keep in mind that God spoke it to Moses and this is God’s name for all future generations. Exodus 3:15.

~The Seven Great “I Am” in the Book of John~



~I am the bread of life

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. [JOHN 6:35] [NAS]



~I am the light of the world~

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

[JOHN 8:12] [NAS]



~I am the door of the sheep~

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

[JOHN 10:7] [NAS]



~I am the good shepherd~

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

[JOHN 10:11] [NAS]



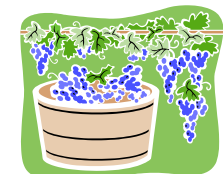
~I am the resurrection and the life~

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, [JOHN 11:25] [NAS]

~I am the way, the truth, the life~



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. [JOHN 14:6] [NAS]



~I am the vine~

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. [JOHN 15:5]

[NAS]

~I am the bread of life~ John 6:26-35



Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."* [JOHN 6:35] [NAS]

JOHN 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."*

27 *"Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."*

28 Therefore they said to Him, *"What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"*

29 Jesus answered and said to them, *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."*

30 So they said to Him, *"What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?"*

31 *"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'"*

32 Jesus then said to them, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven."*

33 *"For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."*

34 Then they said to Him, *"Lord, always give us this bread."*

35 Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."*

Jesus illustrates the manna that came from His father in heaven that was given to Moses and the children of Israel while in the wilderness. But the manna that His Father has sent from heaven is Himself. Look at verse 51; *"I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."* [JOHN 6:51] [NAS] Jesus is all the bread you need! He died on the cross for you and me, so that we could have eternal life. Song – He's all I need.

~I am the light of the world~ John 8:12-20



Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, *"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."* [JOHN

8:12] [NAS]

JOHN 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, *"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of*

life."

13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true."

14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."

15 "You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone."

16 "But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me."

17 "Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true."

18 "I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."

19 So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also."

20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

Jesus is the light of the world, for all creations. You know the "The darker the night, the brighter the light. There is hope only in Jesus Christ. There is only one light to go to! Jesus gives us the light, the light of knowledge to know and fellowship with Him.

~I am the door of the sheep~ John 10:1-10



So Jesus said to them again, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.** [JOHN 10:7] [NAS]

JOHN 10:1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber."

2 "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep."

3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

4 "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

5 "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

7 So Jesus said to them again, "**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 hear them."

9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

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

Jesus came to provide the doorway that is necessary for man to enter into God's presence. Those who want to enter into God's presence are referred to as his sheep.

~I am the good shepherd~ John 10:11-16



"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

[JOHN 10:11] [NAS]

JOHN 10:11 *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

12 *"He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.*

13 *"He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.*

14 *"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,*

15 *even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

16 *"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.*

A good shepherd will do anything for his sheep; even lay down his life for them. This is exactly what Jesus did for us; He laid down His life so we could be saved from sin. A good shepherd keeps his flock together, out of danger and herds/guides them in the right direction.

~I am the resurrection and the life~ John 11:1-26



Jesus said to her, *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,* [JOHN 11:25] [NAS]

JOHN 11:1 *Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.*

2 *It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.*

3 *So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."*

4 *But when Jesus heard this, He said, **"This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."***

5 *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.*

6 *So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.*

7 *Then after this He said to the disciples, **"Let us go to Judea again."***

8 *The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"*

- 9 *Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.*
- 10 *"But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."*
- 11 *This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep."*
- 12 *The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."*
- 13 *Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.*
- 14 *So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,*
- 15 *and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."*
- 16 *Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."*
- 17 *So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.*
- 18 *Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off;*
- 19 *and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.*
- 20 *Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.*
- 21 *Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.*
- 22 *"Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."*
- 23 *Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."*
- 24 *Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*
- 25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,*
- 26 *and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

Jesus did a wonderful illustration here of raising Lazarus from the death as you read on into this chapter. The same with all believers, they will be raised from the grave and or taken to spend eternity with Jesus. But only if you believe that He is the resurrection and the life.

~I am the way, the truth, the life~ John 14:1-6



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. [JOHN 14:6] [NAS]

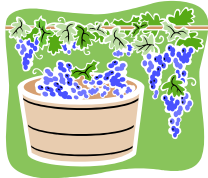
- JOHN 14:1 *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.*
- 2 *"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*
- 3 *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*
- 4 *"And you know the way where I am going."*

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

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

Jesus has prepared a dwelling place for us if we will only accept him as our Lord and Savior. As Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, (the only way), and the truth, and the life."

~I am the vine~ John 15:1-11



"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. [JOHN 15:5]

[NAS]

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

2 *"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.*

3 *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

4 *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

6 *"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.*

7 *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

8 *"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

9 *"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.*

10 *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

11 *"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

How many gardeners do we have in here? Well as you know if you cut the branch from the vine, the branch dies. It's the same way with Jesus Christ. If you are separated from Him you will die. As He put it, *"for apart from me you can do nothing."* We have to be on the vine, Jesus Christ. Do not get separated from Him. If we are abiding in Jesus we will be pruned. If you are a gardener you will know what this means. When you prune or cut back on the branches it allows the branches to be more fruitless or to produce more fruit.

Jesus spoke such a simple language. He spoke in ways that everyone should understand what he was saying, but even His disciples did not understand at the time. Sometimes I think we try to make too much out of His sayings and read more into them than He was actually saying. We should read the Word and accept it for what it is. Don't try to read more into it than it is.

Jesus spoke about:

1. Eating bread to sustain our bodies, Jesus also sustains us spiritually as the bread of life.
2. Being the light of the world. The world is dark and Jesus is the light that shines on us.
3. The door of the sheep. He is the doorkeeper for all His followers.
4. Being the good shepherd. He guides and leads us on the correct path.
5. The resurrection and the life. Only through Jesus can we have eternal life.
6. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. There is only one way – Jesus Christ.
7. Jesus the true vine, the only one that matters. All others are frauds.

Jesus taught that He is the way, the truth and the life. And that we can only come to the father through Him and Him only. (John 14:6) Jesus is not only the revealer of truth, but He is the truth. What you see is what you get. No cover-ups, no facade or anything artificial, Jesus is the real thing. Just remember, this is a journey while here on earth.

As one writer put it:

“We are living in the land of the dying and going to the land of the living.”

Hope you all have a wonderful day in the Lord!

Bless,

Dewey E. Fox

I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take credit for these writings since there are many sources. In many cases, I did not keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this study. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This is my own opinions based on my understanding of Scripture as the Word of God.



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