

Jesus' "I AM" Statements

I. Introduction

A. The book of John records seven major "I AM" statements of Jesus, each of which teaches key lessons about who Jesus is and how we must respond to Him.

II. "Before Abraham..."

A. An "I AM" statement of Jesus in John that is not among these seven emphasizes something that the words "I AM" bring to mind...Jesus' Deity. **John 8:58; Exodus 3:13-14**

III. "The Bread of Life"

A. Beyond this, Jesus' "I AM" statements emphasize key principles related to the spiritual needs we have which He provides.
B. This is seen, for instance, in His statement "I am the bread of life." Jesus is our source of spiritual life, nourishment, growth, and fulfillment. **John 6:32-35, 48-51**

IV. "The Light of the World"

A. Jesus also notes that He is "the light of the world." His entrance into the world "turned the light on" by unveiling God's plan of salvation and allowing us the chance to escape the domain of darkness and enter the light. **John 8:12; Colossians 1:12-13**

V. "The Door"

A. Jesus is also "the door" to the sheepfold. He is the means by which we can enter (and remain in) the "fold of safety," where there is spiritual security. **John 10:7, 9**

VI. "The Good Shepherd"

A. Jesus is also "the good shepherd," who laid down His life to rescue His sheep from danger. **John 10:10-18**
B. He also provides us the *guidance* that we, as sheep, need to be safe. He walks in front of us (His example) and guides through His voice (His Word) so that we can be protected from spiritual endangerment. **John 10:3-4**

VII. "The Resurrection and the Life"

A. Jesus' value is further shown by His statement that He is "the resurrection and the life." Because of Jesus, the righteous will be raised to eternal life in God's direct presence. Hence, because of Jesus, the righteous need not fear physical death. **John 11:25; Revelation 1:17-18**

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

A. Jesus is also "the way, the truth, and the life." He is the One in whom we have access to the Father. **John 14:4-6; Romans 5:10-11**

IX. "The True Vine"

A. Finally, Jesus refers to Himself as "the true vine." He is our source of spiritual nutrients, so we must abide in Him to produce fruit for the Lord. Branches (Christians) who do *not* abide in Christ and bear fruit for Him will be taken away (face spiritual, and ultimately eternal, death). **John 15:1-8**

X. Conclusion

A. May we appreciate and obey Jesus, "the bread of life," "the light of the world," "the door" to the sheepfold, "the good shepherd," "the resurrection and the life," "the way, the truth, and the life," and "the true vine."