

Introduction Material

The 7 “I AM” Sayings of Jesus

Sunday Morning Fellowship

WEEK 1

- Can we list **all 7** of them & their locations?
 - Bread of Life 6:35, 48, 51
 - Light of the World 8:12, 9:5
 - The Door 10:7 & 10:9
 - The Good Shepherd 10:11 & 10:14
 - The Resurrection & the Life 11:25
 - Way, Truth, and Life 14:6
 - True Vine 15:1

5 things to look at regarding the title “I AM”. We’ll cover the first two today:

First Point = The God of authority

- The **significance and relevance** of the I AM sayings of Jesus:
 - **First**, these sayings are only found in the Gospel of John. John the Apostle wrote his gospel many years later. The common view is that it was written anywhere from **80–95 AD**. John ASSUMES you have read the Synoptics, thus why he **doesn’t include** many of the key events of Jesus’ life, such as: *birth narrative, the wise men, where he grew up, Mary and Joseph, etc, Simon of Cyrene helping Jesus with the Cross*. The Synoptics focus more on Jesus’ adventures in the region of Galilee, while John’s gospel focuses on Jesus’ time in Jerusalem.
 - **The Gospel of John is divided into two books:**
 - The Book of Signs **(1:1-12:50)**
 - Changing water into wine, feeding the 5,000, etc.
 - The Book of Exaltation **(13:1-21:25)**
 - Final week of his life, death, resurrection, and last appearances of Jesus before his ascension.
 - **Second**, there are two types of “I AM” sayings:
 - **Absolute: EX:** When Jesus walks on the water and the apostles don’t know who it is, **he says**, “*It is I, do not be afraid*” **John 6:20**. After some of the Jews accuse him of having a demon, he tells them, “*Truly, Truly (Amen), I say to you, before Abraham was, I am*” **John 8:58**. There are several examples of absolute, solid, factual statements of WHO Jesus is: A God of universal authority.
 - **Metaphorical:** These are the 7 I AM statements that we’ll be covering in this series. He is not literally saying he is a loaf of bread, or an actual door you enter. Although their symbolism seems transparent to us, *at the time, NO ONE had ever spoken or*

- **Second**, God points out people who have died. Don't you find it odd that God points out three people who are DEAD? By this point in history, Abraham has been dead for **over 600 YEARS!** Does it really seem relevant to point out someone like Abraham? God is showing Moses, as **John Mackay**, a Reformed OT theologian puts it, "*The bond of the covenant did not lapse with death, those with whom God has entered into solemn commitment to be their God are not abandoned at death, but are kept alive by him so that He may truly be their God forever.*"
- **Third**, Moses responds appropriately by hiding his face. **Moses' life is about to be changed forever**. Whenever someone encounters God, *they're never the same ever again*. They are molded, shaped, and re-formed in ways they never thought possible. Do we allow God to change and reshape us for the better? Christ saw potential in us and lived, died, and rose again so we could always be with Him, **the GREAT I AM**. By having faith in Him, we'll dwell with Him for eternity.