

## Jesus, the Great I AM

In **Exodus 3**, God has singled Moses out to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage. Moses is reluctant, trying his best to put the job off on someone else. He first tells God that he shouldn't be the one to lead the children of Israel because he is a "nobody." **"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"** God says **"I will be with you."** Moses says, basically, "Who are YOU?" – **"Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"** Then God tells Moses His name: **"I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"** In other words: I always have been and always will be. As David will say years later in **Psalm 90:2**: **"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."**

Jesus used many names to describe Himself. As we have been studying on Sunday night, many of His names begin with I AM. Jesus gives us three in **John 14:6** when He says to His apostles: **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

**I AM the Way:** The only way to the Father is through Jesus Christ; not Mohammed, Not Buddha, no one who has ever lived or will live. **Acts 4:12** reinforces that truth when Peter says that **"salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."**

**I AM the Truth:** Every word that Jesus said are the words God gave Him to say and are truth. We, if we hear and believe the truth of the gospel, are sanctified, set apart by God to be different from the world. **(John 17:17)**

**I AM the Life:** The gift of an eternal life is given only to them who believe in Jesus Christ and who choose to obey Him. **(John 3:16)**

There are a number of other names that Jesus gave Himself that begin with God's name: I AM:

**I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18):** Jesus takes care of us as a shepherd cares for his sheep. We feed upon His word, drink of His living water, are protected from predators. He knows all of His sheep by name.

**I AM the True Vine (John 15:1-8):** We are branches of the True Vine and as long as we are connected to the vine we are continually fed. It is our obligation to produce fruit.

**I AM the Bread of Life (6:25-59):** As the manna that was given by God to the children of Israel sustained them in the wilderness, the Bread of Life (God's word) sustains us in this present wilderness.

**I AM the Light of the World (John 9:5):** Jesus came to bring light to those who walk in darkness. We, in turn, are lights to the world, responsible for teaching God's truth to all with whom we come in contact. **(Matthew 5:14-16)**

**I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25):** Because of Jesus' resurrection, we, too, will be resurrected to live eternally with God.

Jesus, God in the flesh, is our I AM. He was, before the worlds were created; He is, guiding us by His Spirit; He will always be, seated at God's right hand, interceding for us. As He says of Himself in **Revelation 1:8: "I AM the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."** What a comforting thought for those of us who belong to the great I AM.