

# No Dark Clouds - Educational Study Guides

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## The 'I am' Statements of Jesus

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM "; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM (*ehyeh: Yahweh*) has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13,14

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, Truly, I say to You, before Abraham was born, I am."  
John 8:56-58

Jesus never said that He would lead us into a spiritual light for 'enlightenment'. Jesus never said that He would give us a list of rituals to satisfy a spiritual hunger. Jesus never said that He would show us a religious door to walk through in order to gain 'heavenly bliss.'

What Jesus did say was that He is 'The Light'; The Bread'; The Door.' The Apostle John recorded seven times Jesus personally identifying Himself using the phrase 'I am' metaphorically to distinguish Himself above all others. If you include His reference to the 'I AM' statement from God speaking to Moses (during the captivity in Egypt), and two times in the Book of Revelation, Jesus referred to Himself as 'I am' on ten different occasions. Each instance (briefly mentioned here) show us the depth of who Jesus is and helps us understand more about Him as 'The Son of God' and the 'Savior of the world.'

Yahweh 'I AM' / The 'Burning bush'    *Exodus 3:13,14 / John 8:56-58*

In Exodus chapter three, God was sending Moses back to Egypt to lead His people out of bondage (after four hundred years of slavery). He revealed Himself to Moses in a burning bush (that was not burning up). Knowing that the Egyptians had many gods, Moses asked the LORD what 'His name is' in order to tell the Egyptians (and the children of Israel) who it was that was delivering them. God's reply of 'I AM WHO I AM' is as simple as it is profound.

The religious leaders listening to Jesus (1500 years later) knew exactly what Jesus was referring to (*as recorded in John 8*) when He mentioned to them that He was the 'I AM.' It was a declaration that Jesus was claiming to be God. In the passage, the religious leaders were wanting to cast stones but the Lord left their midst.

### 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

The Lord had just performed one of His miracles by feeding many thousands of people. Still, as the people followed Him, they were seeking another sign such as the one where God provided manna (bread from heaven) to the nation Israel when they were in the deserts of Sinai. Though Jesus provided physical bread to satisfy for a day, He was much more interested in the people receiving the 'Bread' that is eternal that satisfies the soul and the spirit. By partaking of the 'Bread of Life' the promise is that (ultimately) we will never hunger and will never thirst again. Allow Christ to be your 'sustenance and spiritual nutrition,' daily.

*Scripture nugget: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in Me; and the life which I know live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” Galatians 2:20*

### 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 have the Light of life.” John 8:12

Light will always expose darkness. The smallest of candles will light up an entire room. Spiritually, the natural, sinful man is in darkness and in a world that unfortunately has many dark evils. The promise Jesus is making here is that no matter how dark things around you may be; no matter how dark the 'pit' or 'cave' you seem to be in; the Light of Jesus is stronger still; and if you follow Him and His guidance, He will lead you to walk in the Light.

*Scripture nugget: “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” John 1:4,5*

### The Door

“I am the door, if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10:9

Symbolically, in life there are many 'doors' in which we choose to enter. Some have been good, some have not. In fact, most people would have been better off keeping certain 'doors' in their life closed and never opened. But receiving Jesus and being a follower of Christ is the greatest and most important 'door' to walk through. The most important decision of our life will be whether or not we open the 'door of our heart' to Him.

*Scripture nugget: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20*

### The Good Shepherd

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

In Biblical times, most everyone understood the significance of the shepherd. Their utmost concern was for the safety, protection, and well-being of the sheep. The sheep were totally dependent upon the decisions of the shepherd such as where to graze, how to avoid predators, be conscious of poisonous plants, and where to rest and sleep. Shepherds were willing to be a shield and put themselves between evil and the sheep. In this way, Jesus was informing all those who were listening that He was the Good Shepherd for all mankind.

*Scripture nugget: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand." John 10:27,28*

### 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, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." John 11:25,26

In the Bible, a man named Lazarus was a very close friend of Jesus. He and his sisters (Mary and Martha) lived in a village near Jerusalem named Bethany. One day the sisters sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was very sick and after he passed away Jesus returned to Judea. When the Lord arrived, his dear friend had already been dead for four days. Standing outside the tomb (and in the presence of friends, disciples, and religious leaders) Jesus spoke life back into His dear friend resulting in some people glorifying God and the Pharisees plotting to kill Him. For everyone who believe in Jesus, there will be no second death (*Revelation 21:8*).

*Scripture nugget: “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:1,2*

### The Way, the Truth, and 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

On the night that He was going to be arrested, Jesus was comforting His disciples for He knew that they were troubled. After the Lord mentions to them that He was going away to prepare a place for them (in heaven), Jesus spoke these profound words. He did not tell His disciple that He was going to show them ‘a way’ to heaven nor did He mention a few ‘truthful proverbs’. He said that He was the only way to heaven and eternal life with God. A statement Jesus proved by the Resurrection.

*Scripture nugget: “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

### 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

Leaving the upper room of their meal (the Last Supper) Jesus and the disciples were on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. Knowing that the next day He was to be crucified, Jesus told the disciples an allegory in which He was the vine; God the Father was the vinedresser; and they were the branches. It is not possible for grapes to grow unless they are connected to the grapevine, and that itself, must be firmly rooted in the fertile soil. The Greek word for ‘abide’ (*meno*) is a root verb meaning: to remain as one, dwell, continue, endure, and to last. Thus, Jesus was instructing His disciples that apart from Him, they could do nothing for the Kingdom of God and service to Him here on earth.

*Scripture nugget: “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.” Col 2:6,7*

### The Alpha and the Omega

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,” who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8 and (Rev 22:13)

Jesus was appearing to the Apostle John and gave this description of Himself declaring that He was in fact ‘the beginning and the end.’ Jesus (as creator of the universe – *John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:13-18*) will reign in power and majesty for all of eternity as the ‘King of Kings and the Lord of Lords’ (*Rev 19:1*). Those who are His ‘sheep’ and His ‘branches’ will reign with Him.

*Scripture nugget:* “*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*” Colossians 1:15-17