

INTRODUCTION

- * The Gospel according to John: John's presentation of Jesus as the Son of God who became the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world, in order to strengthen and unify the church around this core belief.
 - * A month ago, we considered Jesus statement, "I am the bread of life." At that time, we focused upon the earthly, temporal, physical mindset of the Jews and Jesus' call for them to have a heavenly, eternal, spiritual perspective. However, we also mentioned that we would take a look at the other aspect of Jesus' statement - the "I AM" aspect - when we got to chapter 8.
 - * It is important to remember the context as we enter this passage. It is just after the Feast of Tabernacles - seemingly it is the day after the final day of the feast ... and it is a weekly Sabbath (cf. John 9:14). Jesus is in the court of the women, which was also the court of the treasury (cf. Mark 12:41-44). It was also the court where they would have the huge lamps representing the shekinah khabod (tabernacling glory) of YHWH in the wilderness (the pillar of cloud/fire).
- Two weeks ago, we saw how Jesus equated Himself to the Rock which provided the Israelites water throughout the wilderness journey - "If anyone thirsts - let him come to Me and drink!" Last week, we moved to this day after the Feast and David showed how the Scribes and Pharisees sought to trap Jesus by bringing to Him a woman caught in the act of adultery. They wanted Jesus to pass judgment upon her according to the law - yet, they did not fulfill the law themselves by also bringing the man she was with! Jesus instructs the crowd, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." The accusers all left. But, there was still a crowd and Jesus began to teach the crowd!
- * It is at this point, that we see Jesus begin an interaction with the crowd that truly becomes "a line in the sand." We begin with the Pharisees wanting to have Jesus arrested, or trapped in His words. We end with them picking up stones to throw at Him! What transpired? Jesus in this passage gives CLEAR TESTIMONY - to the Jews who understood the Scriptures - that He was claiming to be YHWH!

INSTRUCTION

I. PRELIMINARIES

A. The O.T. Use of "Ani YHWH"

1. DECLARING HIS E _____ (cf. Exodus 3:13-15; Isaiah 42:8)
2. DECLARING HIS E _____
 - * cf. Exodus 6:2-8; 7:4-5; 7:15-17; 8:22; 10:1-2; 12:12; 14:4; 14:17-18
 - * cf. Ezekiel 6:7,10, 13,14; 7:4,9,27; 11:10,12; 12:15,16,20; 13:14,21,23; 14:8; 15:7; 16:62; 17:21; 20:12,20,26,38,42,44; 22:16; 24:27; 25:5,7,11,17
3. DECLARING HIS P _____ (cf. Exodus 29:44-46)
4. DECLARING HIS S _____
 - a. He is H _____ (cf. Leviticus 18-26)
 - b. He is I _____ (cf. Isaiah 41:4; cf. Revelation 1:8,11,17; 21:6; 22:13)
 - c. He is E _____ (cf. Isaiah 45:5-7, 18-21)
5. DECLARING HIS A _____ (cf. Ezekiel 5:13,15,17; 21:17,32; 24:14)

B. The LXX Use of "ego kurios"

C. The N.T. Use of "ego eimi"

1. AS AN EMPHATIC EXPRESSION

* Matt 24:5; Mark 13:6; Luke 21:8	* Luke 24:39	* Acts 10:21
* Matthew 26:22,25	* John 4:26	* Acts 18:10
* Luke 1:19	* Acts 9:5; 22:8; 26:15;	* Revelation 2:23
2. AS AN EQUIVALENT OF "ani YHWH"

* Matt 14:27; Mk 6:50; Jn 6:20	* Matthew 22:32	* Mark 14:61-64
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II. PROCLAMATIONS

A. Metaphorical Statements

1. I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (cf. John 6:35, 41, 48, 51; cf. Exodus 16:12)
2. I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (cf. John 8:12; cf. Genesis 1:3; Isaiah 45:7)
3. I AM THE DOOR (cf. John 10:7,9)
4. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD (cf. John 10: 11,14)
5. I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE (cf. John 11:25)
6. I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE (cf. John 14:6)
7. I AM THE VINE (cf. John 15:1-5)

B. Literal Statements

1. THE I _____ THAT JESUS IS YHWH (cf. John 8:24)
2. THE R _____ THAT JESUS IS YHWH (cf. John 8:28)
3. THE D _____ THAT JESUS IS YHWH (cf. John 8:58)
4. THE C _____ THAT JESUS IS YHWH (cf. John 13:19)
5. THE W _____ THAT JESUS IS YHWH (cf. John 18:5,6,8; Job 1:20)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHO IS JESUS TO YOU? IS HE YHWH INCARNATE?
- * HOW IS JESUS "LIFTED UP" - OR EXALTED - IN YOUR LIFE?
- * WOULD OTHERS TESTIFY THAT YOU ARE AN ARDENT FOLLOWER OF JESUS?
- * WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST?
- * YHWH DESIRES FOR ALL THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT HE IS YHWH! IS THAT YOU DESIRE TOO?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Compare John 8:12 with Ephesians 5:6-16 and Matthew 5:14-16. What are the practical implications to our lives if we truly believe that Jesus is the "Light of the World"?

Exodus 3:13-15 ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, '**What is His name?**' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" (**אֲהִיָּה אֲשֶׁר אֲהִיָּה**) And He said, "**Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'**" ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '**The LORD God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ) 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 to all generations.'

Isaiah 42:8 **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, **that is My name;** and **My glory I will not give to another**, nor My praise to carved images.

Exodus 6:2-8 ² And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "**I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**" ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by My name LORD* I was not known to them. ⁴ I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. ⁵ And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. ⁶ Therefore say to the children of Israel: '**I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**'; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. **Then you shall know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)** your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**.' "

Exodus 7:4-5 ⁴ But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵ And **the Egyptians shall know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

Exodus 7:15-17 ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. ¹⁶ And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!' ¹⁷ Thus says the LORD: "**By this you shall know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. (* Exod 8:22 *)

Exodus 10:1-2 ¹ Now the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him, ² and **that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**."

Exodus 12:12 'For **I will pass through the land of Egypt** on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt **I will execute judgment: I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)** .

Exodus 14:4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that **the Egyptians may know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**." And they did so.

Exodus 14:17-18 ¹⁷ And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ **Then the Egyptians shall know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

Ezekiel 6:7,10, 13,14; 7:4,9,27; 11:10,12; 12:15,16,20; 13:14,21,23; 14:8; 15:7; 16:62; 17:21; 20:12,20,26,38,42,44; 22:16; 24:27; 25:5,7,11,17 ... **you/they shall know** that **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**

Exodus 29:44-46 ⁴⁴ So **I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting** and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. ⁴⁵ I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, **that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)** .

Leviticus 18 - 26 *50x* in the context of Israel's sanctification before Him ... because **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? '**I, the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, am the first; and with the last I am He.'

* Rev 1:8 "I am (εγω εμι) the Alpha and Omega ..." (* Also: Rev 1:11; 21:6; 22:13 *)

* Rev 1:17 "I am (εγω εμι) the first and the last ..."

Isaiah 45:5-7 ⁵ **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, and *there is* no other; *there is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, ⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. **I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, and *there is* no other; ⁷ I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; **I, the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, do all these *things*.'

Isaiah 45:18-21 ¹⁸ For **thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, and **there is no other**. ¹⁹ I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; **I, the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. ²⁰ "Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. ²¹ Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not **I, the LORD (אֲנִי יְהוָה)**? And **there is no other God besides Me**, a just God and a Savior; **there is none besides Me**.

Ezekiel 5:13,15,17; 21:17,32; 24:14 "I the LORD have spoken it." ... Should be "I am YHWH. I have spoken." (**אֲנִי יְהוָה דַּבַּרְתִּי**)

Matthew 24:5 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am (* **εγω ειμι ο χριστος** *) the Christ,' and will deceive many." (* Also: Mk 13:6; Lk 21:8 *)
Matthew 26:22, 25 "And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, 'Lord, is it I?' (* **μητι εγω ειμι κυριε** *) ... Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" (* **μητι εγω ειμι ραββι** *) He said to him, "You have said it."
Luke 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel (* **εγω ειμι γαβριηλ** *), who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."
Luke 24:39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself (* **οτι αυτος εγω ειμι** *). Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."
John 4: 26 to the Samaritan woman ... "Jesus said to her, 'I am (εγω ειμι) the one speaking to you.'"
Acts 9:5; 22:8; 26:15 "He said, 'I am Jesus' " (* **ειπεν εγω ειμι ιησους** *)
Acts 10:21 Peter said, ""Yes, I am he whom you seek." (* **ειπεν ιδου εγω ειμι ον ζητειτε** *)
Acts 18:10 Jesus talking to Paul ... "for I am with you" (* **διοτι εγω ειμι μετα σου** *)

Matthew 14:27 ... when Jesus was walking on water, "Be of good cheer! It is I! Do not be afraid!" (* **θαρσειτε εγω ειμι μη φοβεισθε** *)
(* Also: Mark 6:50; John 6:20 *)

Matthew 22:32 Jesus referring to O.T. ... "I am (εγω ειμι) the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob ..."fs
Mark 14:61-64 ⁶¹ But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am. And you will see (* **ο δε ιησους ειπεν εγω ειμι και οψεσθε** *) the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? ⁶⁴ **You have heard the blasphemy!** What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. (* also: Luke 22:70 *)

John 8:12-59

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying,

"I am (εγω ειμι το φως του κοσμου) **the light of the world.**

He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." ...

¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.

¹⁶ And yet if I (εγω) do judge, My judgment is true; for **I am** not alone, but **I am** with the Father who sent Me.

(* και εαν κρινω δε εγω η κρισις η εμη αληθης εστιν οτι μονος ουκ ειμι αλλ εγω και ο πεμψας με πατηρ ...
literally, "I, and the one who sent me, is Father" *)

¹⁷ It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.

¹⁸ **I am** (εγω ειμι ο μαρτυρων περι εμαυτου) One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."

²³ And He said to them, "**You** are from beneath; **I am** from above. **You** are of this world; **I am** not of this world.

(* και ειπεν αυτοις **υμεις** εκ των κατω **εστε εγω** εκ των ανω **ειμι**

υμεις εκ του κοσμου τουτου **εστε εγω** ουκ **ειμι** εκ του κοσμου τουτου *)

²⁴ **Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins;**

for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

(* εαν γαρ μη πιστευσητε οτι **εγω ειμι** αποθανεισθε εν ταις αμαρτιας υμων *)

²⁵ **Then they said to Him, "Who are You?"**

And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

²⁷ They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.

²⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "**When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He** (εγω ειμι),

and *that* I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ And I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges. ⁵¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

⁵² Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' ⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. ⁵⁵ Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."

⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM** (εγω ειμι)."

⁵⁹ **Then they took up stones to throw at Him;** but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.