

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE GODHOOD OF JESUS – LESSON 5

JESUS IS “I AM”

We saw yesterday how God (Elohim) revealed Himself through the burning bush to Moses as **“I AM”** (Exodus 3:14). Henceforth, God was then known as YHWH. (English, Jehovah or Hebrew, Yahweh or Yahh).

God now began to gradually reveal His plan for man’s redemption, especially as foreshadowed by the “Passover” in Egypt. He also later spoke of a Messiah by the prophets.

Isaiah gave many prophecies relating to Jesus’ fulfillment of the sacrificial death. But one very notable passage is in Isaiah 7:14 where it says, **“...Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”** Immanuel (Emmanuel) means “God with us.”

Jesus’ (Emmanuel) birth fulfilled this prophecy of God literally being born among us and living with us in human form. Matthew tells us the story:

An angel appeared to Joseph and told him Mary would bear a son (Matt. 1:21), **“...and thou shalt call his name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins.”** Yes, He shall save them. He will be their salvation. Remember that we said the Old Testament word, in most cases, for “salvation” was Yeshuah,” the Hebrew name for Jesus.

Then verse 23 goes on to say, **“they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”** Jesus was “God with (among) us.”

During His ministry, Jesus made numerous **“I am”** statements. Here is a small sampling of some of them.

John 14:6: **“I am the way, the truth, and the life...”**

John 6:35 and 48: **“I am the bread of life.”**

John 9:5: **“I am the light of the world.”**

John 8:23: **“...I am from above...”**

John 10:11, 14: **“I am the good shepherd”**

John 15:1 **“I am the true vine.”**

John 13:13: **“Ye call me Master and Lord...for so I am.”**

The gospel of John records two truly remarkable passages where Jesus clearly identified Himself as the **“I AM”** of Moses’ burning bush. The first is in John 8:56-58 as the Jews questioned His greatness compared to their “Father Abraham.” In verse 56 Jesus said, **“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it and was glad.”** They then questioned how he could have seen Abraham. Jesus replied (v. 58), “Before Abraham was, **“I AM”** (Not “I was” but **“I AM”** as in eternal).

The second passage is quite a miraculous demonstration of the sheer glory of His name. In John 18:4-8 it. As Judas betrayed Him in company of a band of temple guards and officers, Jesus asked them (v. 4), *"Whom seek ye?"* They replied, *"Jesus of Nazareth."* Jesus said to them *"I AM"*. (Note: the word "he" is not in the original text.)

As soon as Jesus stated his identity as *"I AM"* they went backward falling to the ground. Yes, He stated the very name of His godhood and the glory of it was so powerful that none could stand. The terminology we would use today is that they were "slain in the Spirit." Even though they were unbelievers, they fell at the very speaking of His name *"I AM,"* a name that identified him as God Himself.

There could be no stronger sign that Jesus was and is God than this demonstration of the glory and power in His name as seen in John 18:5-6.

Father is God. Jesus is God. In John 10:30, Jesus said, *"I and my Father are one."* Then in John 14:20 He said, *"...I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."* As Jesus is in me, and I in Him, then as He is in the Father, so also am I in the Father through Jesus, and the Father in me.
Hallelujah