

RUSSELL SANDERS  
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THE "I AM"  
LESSON 3

We will now study John 18:4-8, especially focusing on verses 5 and 6. But first I wish to point out two important matters.

First is that God is so holy that under the direct influence of His name or His glory upon a person, that person melts like heated butter, unable to stand in their own strength. They fall to the floor or to the ground unable to stand. In the church we call this being "slain in the Spirit," or some say that they fell out in the Spirit.

The second point is that when the King James version puts any word in italics in its script, it means that the word DID NOT EXIST in the original text of scripture. The human translators added the word by their own choice because it made better sense to their human reasoning. The Holy Spirit did not give those words to them.

Back to John 18. The scene of this passage was Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The temple guards had come to arrest him and were led by Judas Iscariot. In the darkness of night, the guards could not recognize Jesus, so Judas indicated who He was by kissing Him. For that reason, they asked Him if He was Jesus of Nazareth. What happened next is, in my opinion, the most astounding proof that Jesus is God, the "I Am."

Jesus asked them in verse 4, ***"...Whom seek ye?"*** They replied in verse 5, ***"Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them I AM he..."*** (Note, the "he" is a word that should not have been there because it is italicized, making it a mistranslation.)

Verse 6 says, ***"As soon then as He had said unto them, 'I am' they went backward, and fell to the ground."***

When Jesus said, "I AM" there was such power and glory in that name that even these unconverted guards were "slain in the Spirit." There could have been no greater confirmation of Jesus' deity than this incident. It shows that He was the same God who spoke to Moses through the burning bush.

The Father only manifests Himself on earth through His Son Jesus [Jeshuah]. That is how we know this garden incident was of the same voice that spoke from the burning bush and identified Himself as "I AM" the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What more proof do we need? I shall continue this series tomorrow by highlighting some of Jesus' other "I AM" statements in Matthew and John, so stay tuned.