

Burning Bush Blogs

Equipping men with biblical knowledge and leadership skills

Dig Deeper – Jesus’ I Am metaphors in John

From post: [Counter-culture quotes of Jesus - I AM](#)

Assignment: In the book of John, Jesus uses the term "I am" seven more times, but each one is a specific metaphor about his purpose on earth. When you have time, read the *context* of each of the references, and then determine why Jesus used each of these metaphors to describe himself. List the metaphor, the context, and what it teaches us about Jesus.

Scripture	Metaphor	Context	What this metaphor reveals about Jesus	Old Testament correlation
John 6:35	I AM the bread of Life.	After feeding 5000 bread and fish, and walking on water.	He promises to provide for us, as he did with the crowds of thousands.	God gave Israelites manna every day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exodus 16:1-36 Numbers 11:1-9
John 8:12	I AM the light of the world.	The Pharisees challenge his authority, saying he needs 2 witnesses. When he says his Father is his witness, they accuse him of being illegitimate.	Jesus is our hope in a dark and desolate world. He is pure and holy light. He shines brightly, and the darkness cannot contain him (John 1:4-5).	God’s presence is light. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2) Pillar of Fire (Exodus 13:21-22) Shekinah Glory (2 Chronicles 7:1-3)
John 10:7-9	I AM the gate for the sheep.	Jesus speaks to the Pharisees. He talks about a sheep's pen, how anyone who doesn't enter by the gate is a robber. But the shepherd enters via the gate and protects the sheep.	Those who enter through the gate - through Jesus - will be saved.	Sacrificial sheep went into Jerusalem through the <i>sheep gate</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It led to Golgotha, where Christ died It was the first gate rebuilt in Nehemiah 3:1
John 10:11	I AM the good shepherd. (Jesus is <i>both</i> the gate and the shepherd who guards the gate)	Still speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus expands the <i>gate</i> metaphor. “He’s demented,” some say. Others consider his miracles.	Hired shepherds run away when the wolf comes, but Jesus will stand up against all forms of evil on our behalf.	David’s 23 rd Psalm of comfort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He takes us through the shadow of death.
John 11:25	I AM the resurrection and the Life.	Jesus’ friend Lazarus has died. He comforts Lazarus’ sister, Martha. “ <i>He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.</i> ”	Jesus is claiming to be God. He has all power over death. Then he proves it by calling Lazarus from the grave. God is the giver of life.	Man’s greatest foe is death. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 3:8 - <i>From the LORD comes deliverance.</i> Job 19:25-27 - Job knew he’d see God.

John 14:6	I AM the way, the truth, and the life.	Jesus spoke these words during the Last Supper, soon after washing their feet. He is trying to prepare them for his arrest and death.	Jesus is the way. His path may not be easy. leading through the valley of the shadow of death. But ultimately, his way leads to life.	<p>Jesus is the truth of the Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah 10:10 - <i>But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.</i> • Psalm 16:11 - <i>You make known to me the path of life</i>
John 15:1 John 15:5	I AM the true vine.	<p>Judas has just left to betray the Lord. Jesus talks about pruning vines; cutting the branches that bear no fruit (like Judas?).</p> <p>Jesus' disciples are the branches. We are his disciples, connected to the true vine.</p>	Branches not connected to a vine can bear no fruit. It's the same for followers of Jesus. Jesus, the root vine, makes it possible for the branches to be fruitful.	<p>Psalm 80:8-18 - The original vine was Israel, planted by God in the Promised Land after being transplanted out of Egypt.</p> <p>It stretched far and wide under Solomon but didn't bear fruit. It didn't produce blessings for the world. But it did bear a son. The Son, who is now the true, unquenchable vine.</p>