

E X A L T E D

C H R I S T

A series on the book of John



# I Am

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## Who is Jesus Christ?

During Jesus' earthly ministry, people answered this question in a variety of ways. Some said He was demon-possessed (John 10:20). Some thought He was a narcissist with delusions of grandeur (John 6:42). Others thought He was the prophet Elijah come back from his celestial chariot ride (Matthew 16:14.)

When Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was, Peter spoke up and said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!" (Matthew 16:16).

Every person must answer this question: Who do you say Jesus is?

C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, said we really only have three options: Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. He either intentionally made claims about Himself He knew were false, He was delusional, or He really was the Christ.

Jesus' "I Am" statements focus specifically on His relationship to this world as our Savior.

He is the Bread of Life who satisfies our nagging hunger for contentment (John 6:22-59). He is the Light of the World who frees us from walking in darkness (8:12-20). He is the Good Shepherd who keeps us from getting lost (John 10:11-31), and He is the Door through which God's sheep enter into the safety of His refuge (10:1-10). He is the Resurrection and the Life so that, even though we die, yet shall we live (11:25). He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life so that we might, through Him, have access to God (14:6). He is the True Vine, and when we are grafted into Him, His life flows continually to us as God Himself prunes and trains us to bear fruit (15:1).

Jesus is eternal in His authority, at work in a Covenant of redemption that predates Abraham. "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). Consider these seven "I Am" statements from the Gospel of John as you reflect on the question: Who do you say Jesus is?

I AM <sup>THE</sup> BREAD  
OF LIFE JOHN 6:48

I AM  
the door:  
OF THE SHEEP  
JOHN 10:7

I AM the RESURRECTION  
AND THE LIFE  
JOHN 11:25

I AM THE <sup>THE</sup> TRUTH  
WAY, & THE LIFE JOHN 14:6

I AM  
the LIGHT  
OF THE  
WORLD  
JOHN 8:12

I AM <sup>THE</sup>  
GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
JOHN 10:14

I AM  
THE  
TRUE  
VINE  
JOHN 15:1



“We live in a culture of casual certitude. This has always been the case...and then, of course, time passes. Ideas shift. Opinions invert. What once seemed reasonable eventually becomes absurd.” - Chuck Klosterman, *But What If We're Wrong?*



**Art:** Countless famed artists, including Van Gogh and The Impressionists (Monet, Renoir, Cezanne) were all ignored, dismissed, and died penniless.

**Literature:** *Moby Dick* was such a failure it ended Herman Melville's career and led to depression.

**Science/History:** "Landing and moving around the moon offers so many serious problems for human beings that it may take science another 200 years to lick them." - *Science Digest*, 1948



***Jesus Teaches Us:***

How to and How Not to Follow Him.



**I AM...NOT**



<sup>22</sup> The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea knew there had been only one boat. They also knew that Jesus had not boarded the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had gone off alone. <sup>23</sup> Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks. <sup>24</sup> When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “I assure you: You are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

John 6:22-33 (HCSB)



<sup>27</sup> Don't work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him.”<sup>28</sup> “What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked.<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the One He has sent.”<sup>30</sup> “What sign then are You going to do so we may see and believe You?” they asked. “What are You going to perform?”

<sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “I assure you: Moses didn't give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real bread from heaven.”<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

John 6:22-33 (HCSB)



# I AM NOT TEMPORAL, I AM ETERNAL

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “I assure you: You are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> **Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him.”

John 6:26-27 (HCSB)



# I AM NOT TEMPORAL, I AM ETERNAL

<sup>4</sup> And we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay...<sup>17</sup> So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “**temporary residents.**”

1 Peter 1:4, 17b (NLT)



# **I AM NOT TEMPORAL, I AM ETERNAL**

Jesus came to Impact more than just the Moments of Your Life; He came to Impact the Rest of Your Life...until Heaven.



# I AM NOT AN INSTRUMENT, I AM THE LORD

<sup>30</sup> “What sign then are You going to do so we may see and believe You?” they asked. “What are You going to perform?”

<sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” <sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “**I assure you: Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real bread from heaven.**” <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

John 6:30-33 (HCSB)



# **I AM NOT AN INSTRUMENT, I AM THE LORD**

- Moses was the instrument, but Jesus is the Source.
- Moses was the law-giver, but Jesus is the Grace-Bringer.
- Moses was a man, but Jesus is God.



# **I AM NOT AN INSTRUMENT, I AM THE LORD**

When the Instrument becomes the Source, the Expectation is Performance rather than Lordship.



# **I AM THE ETERNAL LORD**

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the One He has sent.”

John 6:29 (HCSB)



# **I AM THE ETERNAL LORD**

Believe that Jesus wants to make more than just a  
Momentary Impact on Your Life.

Believe that Surrendering to His Lordship is what's  
Best for Your Life.