

## 6. I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life

(John 14:1-6). Jesus is in the upper room with His disciples: ♦The feet have been washed, ♦the Passover meal is being eaten, ♦Jesus has predicted His betrayal, ♦Judas has left the room, ♦Jesus has predicted Peter's denial, and ♦Jesus has mentioned His departure. Then, *knowing all things*, Jesus said:

<sup>1</sup> "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." // As those disciples were troubled, *so we find ourselves troubled*. What is the cure? Trust in God the Father and in Jesus: They ♦are almighty, ♦are in control, ♦have a plan, and ♦love us very much!

<sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there you may be also*." // Jesus' disciples had grown dependent upon Him. Since His departure troubled them, Jesus explained the reason: ♦I am going to heaven, ♦I will prepare a place for you there, and ♦I will come back and get you.

<sup>4</sup> "And you know the way where I am going."

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." // Why is Jesus the only way to heaven? To enter, we must be *sinless in God's sight*. We receive Jesus' righteousness *by grace through faith!*

## 7. I AM the True Vine (John 15:1-8).

Jesus is in the upper room instructing His disciples: Jesus said, <sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so

that it may bear more fruit. // We could say that *God, the Father* planted *His Son, the True Vine* in this world; everyone who believes in Him is ♦**united** to Him and ♦**nourished** by Him.

<sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." // Clean: *by the HS*, you ♦heard my words, ♦believed them, and ♦are trusting in Me for eternal life.

<sup>4</sup> "Abide [remain, continue] in Me, and I in you. [Why?] As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." // When we are connected to Jesus, *fruit will be the result*. Christian fruit? See Gal. 5:22-23.

<sup>6</sup> "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned." // Branches with no fruit are cut off and burned. The burning is a picture of *eternal punishment!*

<sup>7</sup> "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." // When we abide: our prayers will agree with God and He will grant them!

<sup>8</sup> "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so prove to be My disciples*." // We glorify God when we **keep** ♦living in repentance (*sorrow for sin and faith in Jesus*) and ♦learning, living, and sharing the Bible.

## 8. I AM Jesus (John 18:1-8).

It is now late in the evening; *they have left the upper room*: <sup>1</sup> [Jesus] went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden [that is, *Gethsemane*], in which He entered with His disciples. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas also,

who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. // About six months earlier, officers were sent to arrest Jesus, *but they failed*. This time a cohort, *that is, about 600 Roman soldiers*, were with the officers.

<sup>4</sup> So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him [His arrest, illegal trials, severe beating, and crucifixion], went forth [according to the Father's will] and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup> They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, [ἐγώ εἰμι] "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. // Why did they fall? Jesus is Yahweh, God almighty, the Great I AM!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore [standing up] [Jesus] again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that [ἐγώ εἰμι] I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," // No one overpowered Jesus; *He let them arrest Him!*

**Conclusion:** Since Jesus is *The Great, I AM*, let us ♦fully trust in Him, ♦know our sins are forgiven, ♦be at peace, and ♦point others to Jesus – *since He is the only way to heaven!*

Scripture taken from the New American Standard Bible – 1995.

## Connect With Us

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

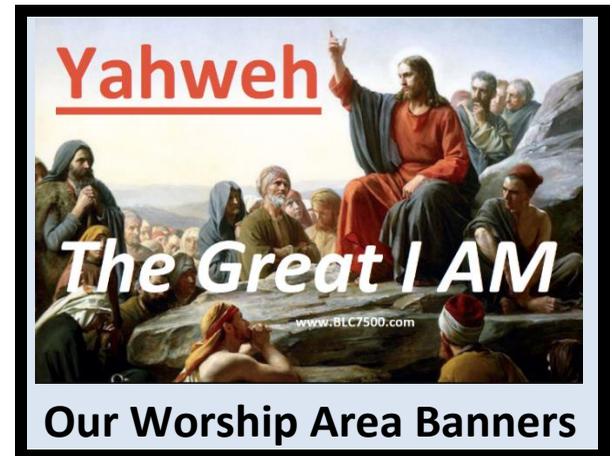
**YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma

**Schedule:** Saturday 4; Sunday 9; 440-845-2230

**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

(Last Update: 10-22)



## The "I AM" Banners

This brochure summarizes the eight banners in our worship area. To watch, listen, or read the four sermons, go to [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

## The "I AM" Meaning

From the burning bush, **the Son of God** said to Moses: "**I AM WHO I AM**" (Ex. 3:14). When **we** call **the Son of God** Yahweh, we are saying, "**He is who He is**." Jesus is **The Great I AM!** When Jesus returns: "...every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord**" (Phil. 2:11); when everyone calls Jesus **Lord**, they will be saying: "**he is Yahweh**" (Chad Bird, *Unveiling Mercy* (Irving CA: 1517 Publishing, 2020), 59. <https://www.gotquestions.org/is-Jesus-Yahweh.html>).

## The "I AM" Phrases

There are a total of **25** in the Gospel of John, *but we are only focusing on 8*. Let me briefly explain:

- We focus on the popular "**I AM**" phrases.
- Some banners cover multiple "**I AM**" phrases (for an example, see 6:35, 41, 48, 51).
- The "**I AM**" phrases come from these Greek words: ἐγώ εἰμι; however, *in English* – *to make the text more understandable* – some of the "**I AM**" phrases have been eliminated.

**1. I AM the Bread of Life** (John 6:28-40). Some of those who ate when the 5,000 were fed said to Jesus, <sup>28</sup> “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “**This** is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” // Our work is **NOT to do, BUT to believe**. The Bible says: “by His doing [God’s doing] you are in Christ Jesus” (1Co. 1:30).

<sup>30</sup> So they said to Him, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? [*Remember: Jesus had just fed 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish!*]

<sup>31</sup> “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.’” <sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the **true bread** out of heaven. <sup>33</sup> For **the bread of God** is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.” // Jesus, *Yahweh in the flesh*, is that heavenly bread.

<sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.... <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

<sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.... <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” // This is NOT *the Lord’s Supper* – Jesus had not yet instituted the Supper and the Supper is not required for salvation. Instead, by our God-given faith, we keep eating the Bread of Life by ♦*trusting*, ♦*learning from*, and ♦*following Jesus!*

**2. I AM the Light of the World** (John 8:12-19).

<sup>12</sup> ...Jesus again spoke to [the scribes and the Pharisees], saying, “**I am the Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” // Jesus is THE LIGHT – *like the sun*; as believers in Jesus, we reflect Him – *like the moon*.

<sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true [*note: the Bible requires two or three witnesses (for example: Deut. 17:6; 19:15; Mt. 18:16)*].” <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from [*heaven*] and where I am going [*back to heaven*]; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup> You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. <sup>16</sup> But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone *in it*, but I and the Father who sent Me. <sup>17</sup> Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. <sup>18</sup> I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.” // Jesus was often criticized for functioning apart from God the Father, *but Jesus repeatedly spoke of their very close relationship*; for example, He said: “**I and the Father are one**” (John 10:30).

<sup>19</sup> So they were saying to [Jesus], “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.” // There are *definite connections* between ♦the Father, ♦the Son, ♦the Holy Spirit, and ♦all who trust in Jesus (see Luke 10:16).

**3. I AM the Door** (John 10:7-10). In John chapter 9, Jesus healed a man who had been born blind. Afterwards, some Pharisees – *who SHOULD have been praising God* – argued with the man about what had happened.

Then, in John chapter 10, Jesus said these words to those same Pharisees: <sup>7</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.”

- **The thieves and robbers:** The religious leaders who served for their own benefit!
- **The sheep:** The true believers!

<sup>9</sup> “**I am the door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” // True shepherds serve under Jesus. *They keep pointing people to Jesus!*

<sup>10</sup> “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that [the sheep] may have life and have *it* abundantly.” // **Let us:**

- Gladly trust in Jesus for eternal life!
- Keep looking forward to being with Him!

**4. I AM the Good Shepherd** (John 10:11-15).

Notice the HUGE contrast between *the Good Shepherd* and *a hired hand*. Jesus said: <sup>11</sup> “**I am the good shepherd**; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. <sup>13</sup> *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.”

- **A hired hand:** He cares more about himself than the sheep, *if a wolf comes, he flees*.
- **Jesus our good shepherd:** Satan came to steal, kill, and destroy, *so Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for our eternal benefit!*

Jesus said, <sup>14</sup> “**I am the good shepherd**, and I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup> even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.” // Jesus knows of our sins, **BUT** He lived, died, and was raised for our salvation (1 Peter 3:18).

**5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:17-27). Lazarus, Mary, and Martha *were friends of Jesus*. When Lazarus became seriously ill, they sent word to Jesus.

<sup>17</sup> ...when Jesus came, He found that [Lazarus] had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning *their* brother. <sup>20</sup> Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. // When a loved one is ill, *we pray for healing*. When a loved one dies, it is normal to be sad because of the separation that has occurred.

<sup>21</sup> Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” // Martha expressed **great faith**: You ☹could have healed Lazarus, ☺will raise Lazarus on the last day, and ☹could raise Lazarus **now!**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world.”

- “...**he who believes in Me will live even if he dies**” – For believers: ♦physically alive, ♦physically die, and, *when Jesus returns*, ♦He will make them physically alive again.
- “...**everyone who lives and believes in me will never die**” – If, *while physically alive*, we believe; then, *when we physically die*, we continue living spiritually with God in the third heaven, paradise (2 Cor. 12:2-4)!