

Series on our Worship Banners – 2022

Saturday, 9/24 at 4:00 | Sunday, 9/25 at 9:00



Text: Gospel of John Selections NAS 1995

Introduction

Dear Friend, *Jesus is of Utmost Importance!*

Before the Son of God put on flesh:

- ✦ The Father worked through His Son to create all things ([Heb. 1:2](#))!
- ✦ Right after the fall, God promised that His Son would defeat the devil ([Gen. 3:15](#))!
- ✦ During the OT era the Son guided and protected the people of Israel as *the Angel of the Lord*¹

After the Son of God put on human flesh:

- ✦ He was named Jesus!
- ✦ He fulfilled the law as our substitute!
- ✦ He received our sins and punishment!
- ✦ He opened heaven for all believers!

¹ <https://bethlehemlutheranchurchparma.com/Sermons/1069/DownloadText>

The “I AM” Meaning

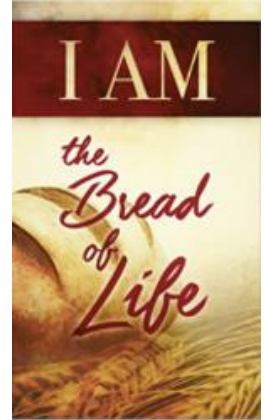
From the burning bush, **the Son of God** said to Moses: “**I AM WHO I AM**” (Ex. 3:14). When **we** call **the Son of God** Yahweh, we are saying, “**He is who He is.**” Jesus is also **The Great I AM!** In this brief “I AM” series, we will focus on Jesus saying, “**I AM...**” eight times in the Gospel of John. 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.**”²

The “I AM” Banners

There are eight banners in our worship area – *in a particular order*: beginning on the south side, front to back, and then the north side, front to back. These are *first two* of the eight:

1. I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:28-40).

- a. Some of those who ate when the 5,000 were fed said to Jesus,²⁸ “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”
- b.²⁹ 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, and God enables us to believe.** The Bible says: “**by His doing [God’s doing] you are in Christ Jesus**” (1Co. 1:30).
- c.³⁰ 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!**] ³¹ “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.’” ³² 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



² Chad Bird, *Unveiling Mercy* (Irving CA: 1517 Publishing, 2020), 59.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/is-Jesus-Yahweh.html>

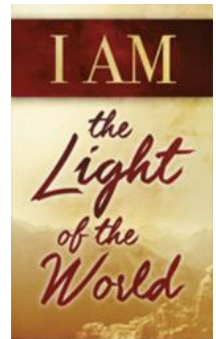
it is My Father who gives you the **true bread** out of heaven.

³³ 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; many are physically alive, *but eternal life is found only in Him*: “...**there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved**” (Acts 4:12).

- d. ³⁴ Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”
³⁵ 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.... // Jesus said: “**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied**” (Matthew 5:6).
- e. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. // “**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him**” (6:44).
- f. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me... ⁴⁰ 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 a physical eating, *it's NOT the Lord's Supper – since Jesus had not yet instituted the Supper*. Instead, by our God-given faith, we keep eating the Bread of Life – *Yahweh, Jesus, the Great I AM* – that is, we keep
✦ *trusting*, ✦ *learning from*, and ✦ *following Him!*

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

- a. ¹² ...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.” // The darkness of sin is death, BUT Jesus is the one source of true light ➔ *showing us the truth*, and life eternal ➔ *received by grace through faith* (Eph. 2:8-9). Jesus is THE LIGHT – *like the sun*; we reflect THE LIGHT – *like the moon* (Mt. 5:14).



- b. ¹³ 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)].” ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.” // Jesus was oftentimes 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).**
- c. ¹⁹ 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.” // On another occasion, Jesus said to His disciples: **“The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One [the Father] who sent Me” (Luke 10:16).** There are *definite connections* between ♦the Father, ♦the Son, ♦the Holy Spirit, and ♦all who trust in Jesus.

Let Us Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, each week, *as we gather in Your special presence around word and sacrament*, help us to ♦see our banners, ♦remember Your awesome greatness, ♦gladly feed on You by trusting, learning, and following, and – *remembering our closeness to You, the True Light of the World* – ♦enable us to reflect You to others in all we say and do!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible
Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230