

Series on our Worship Banners – 2022

Saturday, 10/1 at 4:00 | Sunday, 10/2 at 9:00

Yahweh

Part 2

The Great I AM

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Text: Gospel of John Selections NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear Friends in Christ: Last week we began a series on our eight worship area banners. Each banner connects to one of the eight **“I AM”** statements made by Jesus in the [Gospel of John](#).

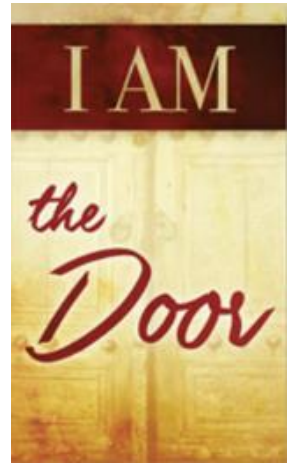
Remember – *from last week*: It was the Son of God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush and said, **“I AM WHO I AM”** (Ex. 3:14). **Let us understand**: He is Yahweh, *the Great I AM*, and now *our Lord Jesus Christ in human flesh!*

Last week we focused on Jesus saying: **“I AM the Bread of Life”** (John 6) and **“I AM the Light of the World”** (John 8). In the context of John 6, **we eat the Bread of Life** – *NOT as we do in the Lord’s Supper, BUT by* ✦trusting in Jesus, ✦learning from Him, and ✦following Him. **In relation to Jesus being the Light of the World** – *He is like the sun!* As people who eat the Bread of Life, we are called to function *like the moon* by reflecting Jesus in whatever we ✦say and ✦do!

The “I AM” Banners: We have eight banners, today we focus on number **three** and **four**:

3. I AM the Door (John 10:7-10).

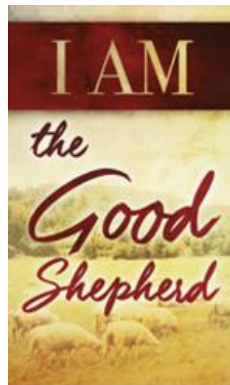
- a. In [John chapter 9](#), on a Sabbath day, Jesus healed a man who had been born blind. After the healing, some Pharisees – *who SHOULD have been praising God* – argued with the man about what had happened.
- b. Then, in [John chapter 10](#), Jesus said these words to those same Pharisees: ⁷ “Truly, truly, I say to you, [I am the door of the sheep](#). ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.”
 - i. Who are the thieves and robbers who came before Jesus? The greedy religious leaders, *including those Pharisees*, who served for their own benefit!
 - ii. Who are the sheep? They are the true believers, *the faithful remnant!* How do they function? They know the Bible is true, *so they compare everything with the Bible to know whether it is true or false* (see [James 1:23-25](#)).
- c. ⁹ [“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, the Good Shepherd. They never tell people what to **do** or **give** to be saved; instead, they keep pointing people to Jesus who is THE Door – *the only way to enter God’s kingdom and receive God’s gift of eternal life* (see [Acts 4:12](#))!



- d. ¹⁰ “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that [the sheep] may have life and have *it abundantly*.” // Note the SHARP contrast: *steal, kill, destroy* versus *life abundantly*! **Let us:**
- i. Gladly trust in Jesus for eternal life!
 - ii. Be grateful to know Him now!
 - iii. Keep looking forward to being with Him and all believers forevermore! Regarding Jesus’ return, the Bible says: “...we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with [all who died in Jesus] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord” (1Th. 4:17).

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

- a. The words on banner number 4 are also located in [John chapter 10](#). Notice the HUGE contrast between *the Good Shepherd* and *a hired hand*. Jesus said: ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² 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*. ¹³ *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.”
- i. Think about a hired hand: he has no ownership of the sheep, nor love for the sheep; for him, *it is just a job!* Since he cares more about himself than the sheep, *he flees in the face of trouble or harm*.
 - ii. But think about Jesus being our shepherd and us being His sheep: **Satan** comes after us to eternally



steal, kill, and destroy: *“Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8)*. **BUT** our **Good Shepherd** is **so** good and **so** great and loves us **so** much that He gave His own life – *in a most painful and horrible way* – to save us from a terrible eternity. Jesus said, *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13)*. *And we are those friends!*

- b. Again, Jesus said, ¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd**, and I **know** My own and My own **know** Me, ¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”
- i. Jesus knows of our sins, **BUT**, *amazingly*, He lived, died, and was raised for our salvation! The Bible says, *“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God” (1 Pet. 3:18)*.
 - ii. When the Good Shepherd **knows us** and we **know Him**, *we are in a relationship with each other*: **He** is our Savior and Lord and **we** are the ones under His love and care 😊enjoying the benefits of His saving work and 😊looking forward to a peaceful, joyful, exciting, stress-free eternity!

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, each week, *as we see our banners*, let us rejoice that You are THE Door of the Sheep – *through which we have entered God’s kingdom*, and let us also rejoice in Your shepherd care for us – saving, providing, protecting – *until we are finally in Your glorious presence!*

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