

Series on our Worship Banners – 2022

Saturday, 10/22 at 4:00 | Sunday, 10/23 at 9:00



Text: Gospel of John Selections NAS-95

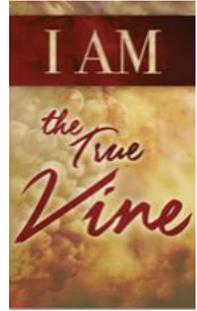
Introduction: Dear Friends in Christ: This is the fourth and final part of our sermon series on our new “I AM” banners.

Regarding the “I AM” statements in *John*, there are a total of **25** *but we are only focusing on 8*. Let me briefly explain:

- We are focusing on the most popular “I AM” statements.
- The “I AM” statements are from this phrase in Greek: **ἐγώ εἰμι**. In some translations the word order has been changed – *to make it more understandable in English*, which eliminated some of the “I AM” phrases.
- Finally, some banners cover multiple “I AM” phrases, for example, in *John 6*, Jesus said: ➡ “I AM the bread of life” (6:35); ➡ “I AM the bread that came down out of heaven” (6:41); ➡ “I AM the bread of life” (6:48); and “I AM the living bread that came down out of heaven” (6:51). One banner, *four phrases*.

As we conclude the series today, let us remember: It was the **Son of God** who spoke from the burning bush and said, “I AM **WHO I AM**” (Ex. 3:14). He is **Yahweh, the Great I AM!**

7. **I AM the True Vine** (John 15:1-8). In the Gospel of John, *chapters 13-17 take place in the upper room*. Now, in *chapter 15*, Jesus is instructing His disciples:



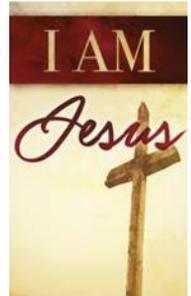
- a. Jesus said, ¹“**I am the true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. // We could say that *God the Father* planted *His Son, the True Vine*, in this world; everyone who believes in Him **is united**, **is nourished**, and **bear’s fruit**. As a grape farmer removes what is dead and prunes what is producing, so *God the Father does the same to people*.
- b. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.” // Jesus said to His disciples: You are clean because, *by the HS*, you **heard** my words, **believed** them, and **are trusting** in Me for et. life.
- c. ⁴ “**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. ⁵ 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 a grape branch is connected to a healthy grape vine, *fruit will be the result*. When we are connected to Jesus, *fruit will be the result*. Christian fruit includes: “**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**” (Gal. 5:22-23). *Let us GROW in bearing fruit!*
- d. ⁶ “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*, so, **LET US ABIDE!**

- e. ⁷ “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” // Those words should *encourage us to abide*. When we are abiding in Jesus, we are *constantly learning and living the Bible*. Then ➔ we will know how to pray in agreement with God’s word **and** ➔ God will grant it!
- f. ⁸ “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” // Since God the Father *has saved us and provides all we need*, we desire to bear much fruit to ➔ bring Him glory and ➔ prove our relationship with Jesus. We glorify God when we **keep** ➔ living in repentance (*having 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*:

- a. ¹ [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. ² Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³ 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, as recorded in **John 7 (32, 44)**, officers were sent to arrest Jesus, *but they failed*. This time a cohort, *that is, about 600 Roman soldiers*, were with the officers.
- b. ⁴ 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?" ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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!** Those sturdy, strong, seasoned soldiers must have thought: *What happened! Who is this guy!*

- c. ⁷ Therefore [after they stood up] [Jesus] again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸ 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; instead, *Jesus had to turn down His power to keep the soldiers on their feet.*

Conclusion: Finally, to emphasize the greatness of Jesus one more time, let's touch on one more "I AM" statement: At the end of John chapter 8, Jesus said to some Jews: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, [over 2000 years ago] before Abraham was born, **I AM**" (56-58). // 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!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, each week, *as we see our banners*, let us ♦recommit ourselves to put You first, ♦rejoice in knowing You, and ♦tell others what You have done!

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