

Morning Sermon May 27, 2018  
"Jesus Christ, the I AM" John 8:58-59

I. With these words Christ is claiming to be Eternal God

—

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58 NKJ)

1. This is something He had already been indicating, He had already claimed to be the Son of God -

It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. (John 8:54 NKJ)

- A. They were not hearing this, not understanding it –

They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. (John 8:27 NKJ)

- B. Yet, "I AM" had too much connected to it for them not to understand –

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?"<sup>14</sup> And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:13-14 NKJ)

B1 – Notice what Moses is asking God, when the children of Israel ask, what is His Name ... He is saying when they ask for I.D., for proof, that I really am sent by God, when they ask for Your Name God, what do I say???

B2 Notice God's answer - "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

2. It is a name that implies eternity and Deity, of course this is what John has already told us about Christ –

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3 NKJ)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJ)

"before Abraham was, I am. This is a clear reference to Jesus' eternal preexistence. Since this is an attribute of God alone, this text is a forceful statement of Jesus' deity. The present tense of the verb suggests the eternal present of God's eternity. "I AM" is also reminiscent of God's name in Exodus 3:14"  
The Reformation Study Bible, R.C. Sproul

Some of you may remember we watched the DVDs of R. C. Sproul about Moses and the Burning Bush, and we studied God's presentation of Himself as the "I AM." The ladies also studied R. C. Sproul's book Everyone's A Theologian. In both the DVDs and the book Sproul taught about God's ETERNAL SELF EXISTENCE, and INDEPENDENCE ... Neither God the Father, nor Jesus Christ His Son were ever created, nor do THEY, or the Holy Spirit for that matter ever need anything from anybody or anything – this is God's ASEITY.

Even the unbelieving Israelites knew this was what Christ was claiming, that is why they want to stone Him – John 8:59. Yet there is even MORE ...

II. Christ's reference to the 'I AM' words of Exodus 3:14 not only identify Him as God, but also as redeemer –

1. Remember, why did God confront Moses at the burning bush? And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows."<sup>8</sup> **So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, ... (Exodus 3:7-8 NKJ)**

- A. God saw the oppression - :7

- B. He heard their cry - :7

- C. He came to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians - :8

- D. He would bring them up to a land flowing with milk and honey - :8

2. The REASON was redemption, and how wonderfully He redeemed –

A. *God's power was shown in His battle with Pharaoh, Pharaoh's hard heart, with His powerful plagues –*

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." (Romans 9:17 NKJ)



## The Ten Plagues of Egypt

The height of the plagues was the death of the first born, the Israelites were spared from that by the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts. This blood pointed forward to Christ.

B. *Yet, God's power is displayed in an even greater, more wonderful way in the cross of Christ –*

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ...

<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He* was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:1 & 5-6 NKJ)

C. *It is a different kind of POWER, the power of love and self-sacrifice, but it is POWER nonetheless –*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

D. *Just as God drowned Pharaoh's horses, chariots and riders in the sea –*

- ... "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! <sup>2</sup> The LORD *is* my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He *is* my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. (Exodus 15:1-2 NKJ)

*So, through Jesus and the cross He also drowns our sins in the sea –*

- He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19 NKJ)

III. *Though we resist His work (and LOVE) to redeem us, He moves forward anyway –*

Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. (John 8:59 NKJ)

The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. <sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. <sup>7</sup> "For the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. (Isaiah 50:5-7 NKJ)

1. *As Pharaoh for a time stubbornly resisted God's power, so did these Jews resist not only His power but His grace, but we all do – Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:7 NKJ)*

2. *The Jews were not alone in their mistreatment of Christ - And the (Roman) soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. (John 19:2-3 NKJ)*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NKJ)

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! (Revelation 15:3 NKJ) SEE II. 2. D. Exodus 15:1-2

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