Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study – October 14, 2026

Study Series: The Great I AM - The I Am Statements
Part 1: Introduction to the "I AM" Series **Teacher: Pastor Jide Lawore**

Week	Teaching Topic	Main Text
1	Introduction: The Revelation of the Great I AM	Exodus 3:14; John 8:58
2	I AM the Bread of Life	John 6:25–40
3	I AM the Light of the World	John 8:12–20
4	I AM the Door	John 10:1–10
5	I AM the Good Shepherd	John 10:11–18
6	I AM the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:17–27
7	I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:1–11
8	I AM the True Vine	John 15:1–8

I. Introduction: The Most Important Question About Jesus

Matthew 16:15 — "But who do you say that I am?"

During his earthly ministry, Jesus was concerned about what his disciples knew of Him. Hence, why he posed the question, "*who do you say that I am".* Throughout history, people have offered different answers to the question of Jesus' identity. Some see Him as a great teacher, others as a prophet, a moral example, or a miracle worker. However, Jesus' own statements about Himself reveal an identity far greater than any of these descriptions. The Seven "I AM" Statements Advance This Purpose. Each statement reveals a distinct dimension of Christ's identity and His relationship with humanity. The "I AM" statements are more than inspirational metaphors. They are divine self-revelations designed to produce faith in Christ and lead us into the fullness of life He offers.

Question: *Why is it important to understand who Jesus is before focusing on what He can do for us?*

II. The Origin of "I AM": God's Revelation to Moses (Exodus 3:13–15)

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and commissioned him to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage. Moses asked what name he should give the Israelites when they inquired about the God who had sent him. God responded: "I AM WHO I AM." — Exodus 3:14

The Hebrew expression Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh is commonly translated "I AM WHO I AM" and may also be understood as "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE." God's response reveals several truths about His nature.

1. God Is Self-Existent: the source of all life and existence. He depends on nothing and no one for His existence.
2. God Is Eternal: God has no beginning and no end.
3. God Is Unchanging: His character, nature, and covenant faithfulness remain constant. Malachi 3:6
4. God Is Faithful and Ever-Present: The revelation of His name was connected to His promise to deliver Israel.

III. Jesus' Claim: "Before Abraham Was, I AM"

John 8:56–59 *" Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." 59 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."*

Here, Jesus was engaged in a confrontation with the Jewish religious leaders concerning His identity and relationship with Abraham.

- John 8:56: Jesus declared that Abraham rejoiced to see His day.
- John 8:57: The religious leaders questioned how Jesus, not yet fifty years old, could have seen Abraham.
- John 8:58: Jesus made the extraordinary declaration.
- John 8:59: Jesus' Audience Recognized the Seriousness of His Claim.

Note that Jesus did not merely say, "Before Abraham was, I was." Instead, He declared, "I AM." In Greek, the expression is Egō Eimi (ἐγώ εἰμι), meaning "I am." This phrase has three important implications.

1. Jesus claimed eternal pre-existence:
2. Jesus identified himself with the divine identity
3. Jesus' audience recognized the seriousness of his claim

Question: *What is the significance of Jesus saying "Before Abraham was, I AM," rather than "I was"?*

IV. Understanding the Seven "I AM" Statements

The Gospel of John contains seven major metaphorical "I AM" declarations through which Jesus reveals His identity and redemptive mission. Each statement answers a fundamental human need and demonstrates the sufficiency of Christ.

Statement	Scripture	What Jesus Reveals
1. I AM the Bread of Life	John 6:35	Our spiritual nourishment and satisfaction
2. I AM the Light of the World	John 8:12	Our illumination and guidance
3. I AM the Door	John 10:9	Our access to salvation and security
4. I AM the Good Shepherd	John 10:11	Our protection, care, and guidance
5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:25	Our victory over death and source of life
6. I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:6	Our only way to the Father
7. I AM the True Vine	John 15:1	Our source of spiritual life and fruitfulness

- **Each statement reveals who Jesus is:** These declarations are not merely descriptions of what Jesus does. They reveal essential truths about His person, character, and mission.
- **Each statement addresses a fundamental human need:** Humanity needs spiritual nourishment, direction, salvation, protection, life, truth, and fruitfulness. Jesus reveals Himself as the ultimate answer to these needs.
- **Each Statement Invites A Personal Response:** Jesus does not merely offer bread, light, life, and truth. He declares Himself to be these things.

Christianity is not simply about receiving things from Jesus; it is about receiving Jesus Himself. Everything we truly need for spiritual life is found in Him.

Question: *How should the revelation of Jesus as the eternal Great I AM change our worship, faith, and daily relationship with Him?*

V. The Practical Implications: Knowing and Living in the Revelation of the Great I AM

Understanding Jesus as the Great I AM should transform how we relate to Him.

- It Deepens Our Worship: When we recognize Jesus as the eternal God, our worship moves beyond admiration to reverence, awe, and adoration. John 20:28 — "My Lord and my God!"
- It Strengthens Our Faith: Our confidence in Christ rests not merely on what He promises but on who He eternally is. Hebrews 13:8 — "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- It Establishes Our Dependence on Christ: Every "I AM" statement reminds us that Jesus is sufficient for our deepest spiritual needs. John 15:5 — "Without Me you can do nothing."
- It Transforms Our Relationship with Jesus: Jesus desires more than intellectual acknowledgment. He calls us into personal faith, abiding fellowship, and obedience.

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (NKJV)

Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. The goal of studying the Great I AM is not merely to increase our information about Jesus, but to deepen our revelation of Him, strengthen our relationship with Him, and transform our lives through Him.

VI. Conclusion and Reflection

The greatest discovery in the Christian life is not merely what God can do for us, but who God is to us. The more clearly, we see Jesus, the more deeply we can trust, worship, and follow Him. As we begin this eight-week journey, let us approach each "I AM" statement with three expectations:

1. Revelation: Lord, show me more of who You are.
2. Transformation: Lord, change my life through what You reveal.
3. Intimacy: Lord, draw me into a deeper relationship with You.