

Divine Declarations : The "I Am's" of Jesus

Lesson 1

"I Am The Resurrection And The Life"

John 11:25

The "I AM's" of Jesus are an interesting and edifying study. We will concentrate on only 7 of the "I AM" declarations of Jesus. In addition to "I Am the resurrection and the life", We will study:

"I Am The Bread Of Life" John 6:35

"I Am The Light of The World" John 8:12

"I Am The Door" John 10:9

"I Am The Good Shepherd" John 10:11

"I Am The True Vine" John 15:1

"I Am King" John 18:37

Jesus' self-identification statements not only affirm His Deity, they also confirm His Ministry. A look at the list of "I Am" statements, reveals what He sees our need to be:

"I Am Resurrection" – we need assurance:

"Because I live, you will live also" John 14:19

"I Am Bread" – we need sustenance:

"He who eats this bread will live forever" John 6:58

"I Am Light" – we need luminance:

"He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness" Jn.8:12

"I Am Door" – we need entrance:

"If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" John 10:9

"I Am Shepherd" – we need guidance:

"he goes before them; and the sheep follow him" Jn.10:4

"I Am Vine" – we need assistance:

"Without me you can do nothing" John 15:4,5

"I Am King" – we need governance:

"King of kings and Lord of lords." I Tim.6:15

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### **"I AM THE RESURRECTION"** John 11:25

1. What does the promise and prospect of resurrection mean to you?
  - Do you give it much thought?
  - Do you fear death?
  - Do you anticipate resurrection?
  - How do you know that resurrection is in your future?
  - Do you have assurance that you will be resurrected?

2. The declaration that Jesus made when He said, "I Am the resurrection", not only gives solace in the time of sorrow, but gives assurance to any child of God who may be apprehensive about death.
3. This statement has tremendous importance. To understand its significance we must go back to Exodus 3:14 where we read, "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14).
4. "I Am That I Am" is God's name for Himself. The name means = "the eternal, self-existing one." The name is usually translated "LORD" (Jehovah) and is used 6,700 times in the Old Testament alone.
5. When Jesus declared Himself to be "I AM" He was identifying Himself as God! Jehovah of the O.T. is the Jesus of the N.T.
6. The occasion for this declaration of Jesus was the death of Lazarus. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, has sent for Jesus and when He came, Martha said, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:21) Jesus responded, "I am the resurrection and the life." This dramatic and dynamic statement gave great hope to Lazarus' grieving sisters and it gives hope to us today!
7. Let us examine the subject of resurrection in light of Jesus' claim that He is *"the resurrection and the life."*

## **I. THE PROOF OF HIS RESURRECTION GIVES US CONFIDENCE.**

Our confidence in Jesus' resurrection is predicated upon, at a minimum:

- the authority that He has to rise and to raise others;
- the announcements that He made about resurrection;
- and the appearances to witnesses after His resurrection.

Let us briefly examine these three evidences:

### **A. His Resurrection Authority.**

One day when Jesus was teaching in the Temple some Priests asked Him "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" (Matt 21:23)

Those were fair questions. We can ask concerning resurrection truth "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"

1. Jesus answers our questions in John 10:17-18 "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have **authority** to lay it down and **authority** to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."
2. John 5:25-29 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him **authority** to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."
3. When Jesus said in Matt. 28:18 "All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth", that included authority over death! We can have confidence in One who has such authority as that.

## **B. His Resurrection Announcements.**

He made many announcements regarding resurrection. Two are:

1. John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, (Martha) "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."
2. John 5:21 "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will."
  - a. Note - There is one act in two stages: (1) the resurrection of the body and then (2) the restoration of life to the body. Not only is Jesus claiming to do the same divine act, but He is claiming to do it as the result of His own will, even as the Father does!
  - b. The two stages involved in Jesus' statement "I am the resurrection and the life" are illustrated in Ezekiel 37:7-14 where we read of the bones of the dead coming together and then life is breathed into them. Two acts: (1) Resurrection of the body then (2) the impartation of life. "I am the resurrection and the life". Body raised – spirit returned.
  - c. Jesus made the statement, "I am the resurrection and the life", before His death. Does He deliver on His claim? Yes! The N.T. scriptures are replete with resurrection proofs. Consider:

### C. His Resurrection Appearances.

1. **Acts 1:3** “To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many **convincing proofs**, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. “
2. The many appearances of Jesus after He arose from the dead are well documented. He was seen by:
  - Three women at the empty tomb - Mark 16:1;
  - then Peter and John came to the empty tomb – John 20:3-10;
  - He then appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-27;
  - then to the 11 disciples, Thomas being absent – John 20:19-24;
  - then a week later to the 12 disciples, Thomas being present – John 20:26-29;
  - I Cor. 15 tells us that several hundred saw Him at one time – I Cor. 15:6;
  - He appeared to James – I Cor. 15:7;
  - He appeared to Saul on the Damascus Road resulting in his conversion and name change to Paul – I Cor. 15:8 and Acts chapters 9, 22 & 26;
  - John saw Him on the Isle of Patmos – Rev. 1:9-20.
3. There is ample proof of Jesus’ resurrection. It is a well documented and attested event.

His resurrection proves that He indeed is “*The Resurrection and The Life.*” His word is true. We can place our complete confidence in Who He is and in what He says!

4. Consider further that:

## II. THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION GIVES US COURAGE.

He who had power to rise from the dead, has power to raise others from the dead. Jesus said, “Because I live, you will live also.” (John 14:19) And Paul puts it this way in 1 Cor. 15:20-21 “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.”

### A. His Resurrection Power Was Exhibited.

1. Matt 11:3-5 “Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the

lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; **the dead are raised up** and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”

- a. Not only did Jesus have power to rise from the dead, but He had power to raise others from the dead and did so during His earthly ministry. For example:
  - (1) Many saints rose from the dead at the resurrection of Jesus (Matt. 27:50-53). Jesus’ resurrection was not a solo event!
  - (2) Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain from the dead (Luke 7:11-15).
  - (3) Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Luke 8:41, 42, 49-55).
  - (4) Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-4)
  - (5) The evidence that Christ has resurrection power has been experienced by every sinner who has been raised from spiritual death to eternal life in Christ!
2. **ILL.** A Buddhist in India became a Christian & some of his friends asked him why. He said, “Well, it is like this: suppose you were going down a road and suddenly the road forked in two directions and you didn’t know which way to go. If you met two men at the fork – one dead and one alive – which one would you ask to show you the way?” Buddhists and other cults serve a dead leader.
3. But as followers of Christ, we serve a living Savior. We can say with assurance, “The Lord is my Shepherd.” He guides us, guards and guarantees us safe arrival in the Father’s House because He lives!

## **B. His Resurrection Power Can Be Experienced.**

1. Paul’s passion for Christ is expressed in Phil. 3:10 wherein he said, “that I may know Him and the **power** of His resurrection....” This statement in itself is a proof of Christ’s Resurrection. However, there is more in the statement.
2. Paul’s desire underscores the truth that Christ’s resurrection power is available to live the resurrected life that Christ imparts. The power that raised us Jesus is available to us:
  - a. There is power for our salvation. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Good News: Christ died, buried, arose!).

- b. There is power to witness. Acts 4:33 “with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”
  - c. There is power for daily victory. Ephesians 6:10 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God....”
  - d. There is power to be patient and longsuffering. Col 1:11 “strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”
  - e. There is power for an overcoming spirit. 2 Tim 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
  - f. There is power to live godly lives. **2 Peter 1:3** “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness.....”
3. As children of God we should take courage from the truth that we have been empowered for every eventuality with the same power that raised the Lord Jesus from the dead!

Abraham Lincoln was leaving church one Sunday, he was asked what he thought of the minister’s sermon. He said, “The minister had a strong voice and a good delivery, but he forgot the most important part of a sermon. He forgot to ask us to do something great.”

- 4. We should never say, “I am powerless to be or do all that God expects of me.” We should rather say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”(Phil.4:13)
- 5. Take courage, faint heart! We are children of God omnipotent who raises the dead! We believe and sing Isaac Watts’s great hymn:  
*“I sing the almighty power of God  
 That made the mountains rise,  
 That spread the flowing seas abroad  
 And built the lofty skies.”*
- 6. We can take courage to face life and death because Jesus Christ has destroyed “him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil- and freed those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Heb 2:14-15)

### III. THE PROMISE OF OUR RESURRECTION GIVES US COMFORT.

The past is prologue. Let us fast forward to the future. Job's question is apropos: "If a man dies, will he live again?" (Job 14:14) To answer Job's question we have a plethora of Christ's personal promises of our resurrection which are a great source of comfort. Let us look at some of these promises:

#### A. The Promises Of Eternal Life Assure Us Of Resurrection.

1. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have **eternal life.**"
  - The phrase "Eternal life" life occurs 31 times in the N.T.;
  - "Everlasting life" – 13 times;
  - "live forever" – 2 times.
2. The promise of Eternal life is predicated upon Jesus' resurrection. He arose and said in John 14:19 "Because I live, you will live also." What a promise – what a comfort!
3. We have many promises of endless life by the One "who cannot lie." Paul wrote to Titus about the "hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began." (Titus 1:2)

#### B. The Promises Of His Return Assure Us Of Resurrection.

From the many promises of Christ's return, a look at two will suffice:

1. 1 Cor 15:51-57 "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. 1 Thess.4:15-18 "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the

clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

3. Should we die before the Lord returns, we have the comfort of the scriptures that when He comes we shall be raised to meet Him!

### **C. The Promise Of Our Reign Assures Us Of Resurrection.**

1. 2 Tim 2:11-12 “This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.”
2. Rev 5:9-10 “And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." NASU
3. Rev 20:6 “Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.” NASU
4. Rev 22:5 “And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”
5. It is a settle fact that we shall reign with Christ our Savior, and this truth is a great comfort to us because, we cannot reign if we are not resurrected!

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Are you certain that you will be raised from the dead if you should die before Christ comes for us? How can we be sure beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we shall be raised to spend eternity with Jesus Christ?
  - Because of the Proof of His Resurrection, we can have confidence;
  - Because of the Power of His Resurrection, we can have courage;
  - Because of the Promises of Our Resurrection, we can be comforted!
2. Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life.” And then He asked her this question: “Do you believe this?” (Jn.11:26) Friends, do you believe this? The door of your eternity with Jesus swings on the hinges of your belief of this truth!



3. Our greatest hope does not come from Wall Street, the White House, the United Nations or the Vatican in Rome, but from an empty tomb in Gethsemane's Garden!
  
4. For the child of God there is more ahead than just:
  - the grave – there is glory!
  - An exit from life physical – there entrance into life supernatural;
  - than morose uncertainty – there is a joyous eternity!
  
5. **ILLUST.**           “Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
                                   Because He lives all fear is gone  
                                   Because I know He holds the future  
                                   And life is worth the living just because He lives.”

**YES! JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE !!!**

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