**John-Jesus, The I AM**

John 1:1-4

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. NKJV*

John starts his story of Christ with a very bold declaration: JESUS IS GOD! This seems incomprehensible to us because our mind has a hard time coming to grips with the idea that God Almighty could present Himself in human form. Paul the apostle recognized this difficulty and tells us this: *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, Received up in glory* (1 Timothy 3:16). Paul is echoing what John tells us about the Word who is God. In John 1:14 we read: *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.*

Why is this declaration that Jesus is God so important? Let’s review what we have already learned. Matthew told us that Jesus is the Christ that fulfills all the prophecy in the Old Testament. Mark shows us that Jesus is a supernatural hero, the Son of God and a virgin. Luke shows us that Jesus is the human who died to pay for the sins of all other men, past present and future. How does a man manage to do that if he is himself a sinner? Indeed, this is the point. Jesus is not a man completely like us. *He is a man who was tempted in all points like we are, yet was without sin.* (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus is the *sacrificial* lamb without spot or blemish who is the sin offering to pay for our transgressions. John is making the point that this is possible only because Jesus is God in the flesh and thus is without sins because He is incapable of sin.

Let’s go through the Gospel of John and see what he shows regarding Jesus. In John 3:13, Jesus says that He came down from heaven. He is absolutely claiming existence prior to coming to the earth. John the Baptizer said this: *He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies;* (John 3:31-32) John understands that in His flesh, Jesus is the Son of God, but John plainly tells us that Jesus *comes from above and is above all*. In John 4 Jesus tells a Samaritan woman of His being from heaven and that He is the Christ. In John 5 Jesus tells His audience that He can do whatever the Father does; He has the same power of life that the Father has; He has the same capacity to Judge as the Father has; He should receive honor just as the Father receives honor.(vss. 16-23) When you read this passage notice John tells us that those who listened to Jesus realized that He was making Himself equal to God (vs. 18).

In John 6 it is interesting to see that Jesus recognizes His humanity as Son while claiming the prerogatives of God in heaven. *As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven — not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever* (John 6:57-58).

Even more interesting is that in John 8 we see Jesus use the phrase I AM over and over again. What’s the big deal about this? When Moses was tasked by God to go to Egypt and deliver the people of Israel from bondage, Moses said he didn’t know God’s name and that the people would ask for the name of the God who sent him. God gives this name to Moses, I AM (Exodus 3:14). Get this, our God has a name: I AM. Look and see what Jesus says.

* John 8:12 - *I am the light of the world.*
* John 8:23-24 - *You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.*
* John 8:24 - *for if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.* (Most Bibles insert the word *He* after I AM, but it is not in the original text)
* John 8:58 - *Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.*

Understand that this is happening in the last few months of Jesus’s life. As He moves to Jerusalem, He is plainly stating who He is and what He has come for.

Grasp that Jesus fully understands He is human and has come to die for the sins of all humanity. He emphasizes both states of existence. In John 9:35-39 Jesus states that He is the Son of God. As we contemplate this, we can repeat what we learned earlier, *“Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness.”* We must not make the mistake of declaring we cannot believe that Jesus as Son is also God because we don’t understand how it can be. Paul’s point in the scripture just quoted is that this, without controversy, is a mystery.

Here are some more claims of Jesus given to us by John.

* John 9:5 - *I am the light of the world.*
* John 10:9 - *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved*
* John 10:11-12 - *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*
* John 11:25 *- I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live*

Finally in Jerusalem at the final Passover meal with His apostles, Jesus shows His Deity and His humanity. Why should God love us so that He would take on our flesh and die for us?” *Great is the mystery of Godliness*!

* John 13:13 - *You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am*
* John 13:19 - *Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am*
* John 14:6 *- I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*
* John 14:9 - *He who has seen Me has seen the Father*

Though plainly declaring His deity, Jesus also pointed out His humanity. *If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.* (John 14:28) This is important because God through Jesus wants to elevate us by His love. *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.* (John 15:13). John is plainly showing us why Jesus could die for our sins. Paul, an apostle, says this: *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that* ***God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself****, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* 2 Corinthians 5:18-21