**The Case of The Identity of The Great “I Am”**

**Worksheet**

This worksheet accompanies our study regarding “**The Case of The Identity of The Great “I Am””**.

To understand this case, we have to start in the OT. God selected Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. Moses objected to what God has directed him to do.

**Exodus 3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?**

**14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.**

**15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**

What did God mean by stating “**I AM THAT I AM”**?

Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary states:

God is the author of life and salvation. His “I am” expresses the fact that He is the infinite and original personal God who is behind everything and to whom everything must finally be traced. “I am who I am” signals the truth that nothing else defines who God is but God Himself. What He says and does is who He is. The inspired Scriptures are the infallible guide to understanding who God is by what He says about Himself and what He does. Yahweh is the all-powerful and sovereign God who alone defines Himself and establishes truth for His creatures and works for their salvation.

Significantly, Jesus used a similar self-designation to identify Himself.

**John 8:51-59. V53b - whom makest thou thyself? (Who do you think you are?)**

**John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

C.S. Lewis contends that Jesus is either the Lord, a Liar, or a Lunatic in a presentation now known as the “Trilemma”. Lewis writes:

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Jesus makes many other “I AM” statements in which He either directly declares His deity, does so figuratively, or describes His attributes or activities that derive from His divinity.

**Matt 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I (also translated as “I am He”); be not afraid.** (See also Mark 6:50; John 6:20)

**Mark 14:60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?**

**61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?**

**62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

**John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.**

**26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.**

**John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them (the scribes and Pharisees), saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

**John 8:18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.** (See also 1 John 5:6-9)

**John 8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.**

**24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**

**John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.**

**9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**

**John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

**12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**

**13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**

**14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.**

**John 11:25 Jesus said unto her (Martha), I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

**John 13:18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.**

**19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.**

**John 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.**

**5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?**

**6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

**John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.**

**2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.**

**3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

**4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**

**5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

The key questions that conclude our case:

**Matt 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?**

**John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**