

I AM

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"Truly, Truly, I say unto you, If a man keeps My word, he shall never see death." Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, "If a man keeps My word, he shall **never** taste of death." Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead; who do You make Yourself to be?" Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing; it is My Father who honors Me; of whom you say, that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him. But I know Him; and if I should say, I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him, and keep His Word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it, and was glad." Then the Jews said unto Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Then Jesus said unto them, "Truly, Truly, I say unto you, Before Abraham came into existence, **I Am**". Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus was hidden, and went out of the Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." (John 8:51-59)

I Am: from two Greek words: **ego** which means: "I", the first-person pronoun; and **eimi** which means: "exist", or "is", or "am" – thus "I Am"

Of all the names and titles that are applied to Jesus, this one is the one that presents Jesus as pre-existing from eternity. When Jesus said that "Before Abraham existed, **I Am**" He was declaring His pre-existence even before Abraham was born, and He was using an appellation like unto the name that God Himself used to exemplify His eternal self existing nature:

"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?" And He (God) said, "Certainly I will be with you; and this shall be a sign unto you that I have sent you, when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain." And Moses said unto God, "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel and shall say unto them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they shall say to me, "What is His name?" what shall I say to them?" And God said unto Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say unto the children of Israel, "**I AM** has sent me unto you."" And God said furthermore unto Moses, "Thus you shall 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 has sent me unto you." This is My Name forever, and this is My memorial unto all generations." (Exodus 3:11-15)

The Jews believed that Jesus, a mere man, was equating Himself as God; which to them was blasphemy; a serious accusation which Jesus did not deny! For them, this was reason enough, in their minds, to stone Jesus!

Consider also these verses:

"Then came the Jews round about Him, and said unto Him, "How long will You keep us doubting? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you believed not; but the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you did not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **I and my Father are one.**" Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do you stone me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You; but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, "I said,

I AM

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you are gods"? If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; do you say of Him, whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, 'You blaspheme;' because I said, "I am the Son of God?" (see John 5:15-29). If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me. But if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him. Therefore they sought again to take Him; but He escaped out of their hand." (John 10:24-39)

The Jews accused Jesus of making Himself to be God; which was an accusation that Jesus did not deny. Jesus had said to them, "the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me." These "works of the Father" which Jesus performed were all the many supernatural miracles that bear witness of the Hand of God, since they could only be done by God. Thus Jesus said "I and my Father are one", and again "the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

Consider also this prayer of Jesus:

"These words Jesus spoke, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You. As You have given Him power over all flesh, so that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given to Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth; and I have finished the work which You gave me to do. And now, Oh Father, glorify You Me with Your Own Self with the glory which I had with You before the world existed." (John 17:1-5)

So now, in this prayer, Jesus is declaring His pre-existence even before the world existed. The Gospel of John also begins stating the same truth:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This One was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. ... And the Word was made 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 1:1-4, 14)

JESUS IS...

the "I AM"

the Pre-existing One

the eternal Self-existing One

He is One with the Father,

and shares with the Father in the same Glory which He had with the Father even before the world came into existence!

Jesus, how Great You Are – my Lord and my God!

I look forward to spending eternity with You in Paradise forever and ever!

Comen soon Lord Jesus! Amen, and Amen!