

LIFE | DEATH | BURIAL | LIFE

Week 1 – Before Abraham, I Am

John 8:23-30

²³ But he continued, "You are from below; <u>I am</u> from above. You are of this world; <u>I am</u> not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that <u>I am</u> he, you will indeed die in your sins." ²⁵ "Who are you?" they asked.

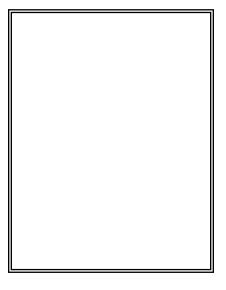
"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. ²⁶ "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that <u>I am</u> he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." ³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

John 8:58-59 (ESV)

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, <u>I AM</u>."
⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

The <u>IMPOSSIBLE</u> is possible in our lives.



I AM [ego eimi] I...exist I...happen I...am...present

"I am...the living bread." - John 6:35

"I am...the good shepherd." - John 10:11

"I am...the light of the world." - John 8:12

Jesus exists in the timeless <u>REALITY</u> of eternity.

John 8:24, 28, 58 [YLT]

²⁴ I said, therefore, to you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye may not believe that <u>I am</u>, ye shall die in your sins.'

²⁸ Jesus, therefore, said to them, `When ye may lift up the Son of Man then ye will know that <u>I am</u>; and of myself I do nothing, but according as my Father did teach me, these things I speak;

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, `Verily, verily, I say to you, Before Abraham's coming – <u>I AM;</u>'

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

We are new <u>CREATIONS</u> under the I AM.

The implications of I AM are NOW.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

SO WHAT?

What WAS doesn't have to BE.

NOTES:



"Your past, present, and future are taken care of as you put your trust in Jesus." - Rick Warren



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) <u>Admitting</u> that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) <u>Asking</u> God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying <u>YES</u> to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: Share some of your favorite things about the journey toward Holy Week and the Easter season as a whole.

:: Reread/Review John 8:23-30, 58-59.

:: What stands out to you most in Jesus' words?

:: Discuss some of the implications of Jesus calling himself 'I AM'.

:: How might those things impact the way we live or relate to him today?

:: Throughout the Bible, we repeatedly encounter the reality that our Lord WAS, IS and IS TO COME.

:: Discuss some of the implications of the reality that he bridges past, present and future.

:: What difference has it made in your life or not? Why is that?

:: What are some 'impossibilities' people face in life? What can change

because Jesus is 'I AM'? [ref. Matthew 19:26, Philippians 4:13, John 15:5]

:: Pastor Shawn said, "Jesus exists in the timeless reality of eternity."

:: What does that mean for us today?

:: Which part of your life have you given Jesus authority to influence most? Least? [i.e. past, present, future, etc.]

:: What is one thing Jesus is inviting you to do next because he is...I AM?

:: Identify 1 person you can ask to pray for you as you step out and do that.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV]. Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – March 16 & 17, 2019