

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12-20

"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Exodus 3:6

INTRODUCTION: In Exodus 3 God revealed His Name to Moses as I Am who I Am. Exodus 3:14. The Hebrew rendering is YAHWEH.

A. The Jewish Scriptures were written in Hebrew.

Around the 3rd century BC, the Scriptures began to be translated into Greek which was the common language throughout the known world.

B. Two words in Greek can be translated as "I Am." Those words are "ego" and "eime." Ego means "I Am." Eime means "I Am." In the Greek transition of God's name in Exodus 3, "I Am who I Am" both words are used. Ego eime which literally says "I Am, I Am."

C. Jesus says ego eime I Am, I Am the bread of life.

He uses the exact same language to describe Himself that the Greek translation of the Old Testament used for the Name of God in Exodus.

D. So, Jesus is literally saying that He is the I Am of the Old Testament.

The 2nd "I AM" STATEMENT: "I Am the Light of the world"

I. The theme of light opens and closes all of Scripture.

A. The first thing God did in the Bible was to create light. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.* Genesis 1:1-3

B. The Bible concludes by promising that in heaven there will no more night.

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:5

II. Jesus came to save us from the darkness of this world

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2.

A. When Jesus says "I Am the Light of the world, He is making a very exclusive claim.

B. Jesus makes this claim during the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles

1. It was a celebration of their harvest

"Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year." Exodus 34:22

2. It also commemorated Israel's journey through the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

You shall live in booths for seven days; all that are citizens in Israel shall live in booths, so that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 23:42-43

3. The lamps used during the Grand Illumination were a symbol of the pillar of fire that led the Israelites in the desert.

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Exodus 13:21.

III. The history of humanity is that we gravitate toward darkness.

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who

does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. John 3:19-20

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105

IV. The Light of the World came to save us from the darkness.

A. The Light reveals the darkness within our hearts

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

B. The Light restores us to new life