

I AM's of Jesus

Sunday, October 19,2014

John 1:1-18; 8:48-59

I. Introduction

The gospel of John is unique compared to the other gospels. John is very selective in what he writes:

- 1) There are no parables in John
- 2) There are no exorcisms in John
- 3) John uses the word 'signs' instead of miracles to authenticate Jesus as Messiah (John 20:30-31)
- 4) Only in John, Jesus uses the phrase "Truly, Truly" or Verily, Verily" which means Amen, Amen to announce an important truth.
- 5) Another distinctive of John is that he records for us the seven sayings of Jesus that are not found in the other three Gospels. These are the 'I AM' statements of Jesus.

II. The Great 'I AM' v.48-58

Jesus makes at least 3 claims here in this passage:

1) He Claims Deity

Jesus is identifying himself with the way in which God revealed himself in the OT. God reveals himself to Moses at the burning bush and God speaks to him. God commissions Moses to confront Pharaoh and release His people. Moses asked, 'What is your name?'

Exodus 3:13,14

Here the God of the Bible who is eternal, unchanging and glorious whose name is I AM. Jesus now applies this designation to himself.

2) He Claims Eternity

v.56 – *"Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."*

Jesus is saying before Abraham existed, He claims to have existed, and after Abraham is gone, Jesus will continue to exist.

"But Abraham rejoiced...He saw it and was glad"

Did Abraham see it when he went to offer Isaac on the altar and God stopped him and provided a lamb?

Jesus is declaring that he existed before the world itself which in what John brings out at the beginning of his gospel (John 1:1)

3) He Claims Immutability

Jesus's statement, *"Before Abraham was, I AM."*

Only Jesus can say "I AM" everyone else says "I was, I am, I am going to be."
As a member of the Triune Godhead, Jesus is above time. Jesus has always been. He has no beginning and no end.

Malachi 3:6 – "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed"

Hebrews 13:8 – "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

III. Their Hearts Revealed v.59

"A man who was merely a man and said these sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd be either a lunatic - on a level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he'd 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." CS Lewis