**R852 Rumination for 23rd May 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **I am that I AM** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was,* ***I AM.***Jn. 8:58The **T**hots:

Intro.: Is Jesus God? An Indian Islamic evangelist once alleged that Jesus never claimed to be God in the Bible. Consider…

1. **God says His Name is *I AM.* Exo. 3:13, 14, 15**
2. Moses’ **I**nquiry when **C**ommissioned to deliver his people from Egypt. 3:13

*Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them,*

*The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name?*

*What shall I say unto them?*

1. God’s **I**nstructions **C**oncerning how to **I**dentify Him: 3:14
2. *God said unto Moses, I AM THAT* ***I AM…****Thus shalt thou say…****I AM*** *hath sent me unto you.*
3. *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.* 3:15

1. **Jesus says He is the *I AM*.**
2. He **P**ublicly **R**evealed two “im**P**ossible” **S**tatements **R**egarding Abraham **R**elating to Himself:
3. That Abraham **E**xpected His Coming: Jn. 8:56

*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.*

1. That He **E**xisted before Abraham – *Verily, verily, I say unto you,* ***Before Abraham was, I AM.*** Jn. 8:58
* Jesus **E**xclaimed to be God, the ***I AM***, and He **E**xisted before Abraham: *Before Abraham was,* ***I AM***
* The Jews needed no further **E**xplanation; they understood and immediately accused Him of blasphemy.

Hence, *took they up stones to cast at Him,* wanting to **E**xterminate Him! Jn. 8:59a

* **They knew Jesus was claiming to be God, the *I am!***

1. He earlier had **P**roved that He was the ***I Am*** as He had the **P**ower to **P**unish **S**inners or **E**xpiate Sins.

*I said therefore unto you…if ye believe not that* ***I am***[He]*, ye shall die in your sins.* Jn. 8:24

1. Only God can **F**orgive sins – *who can forgive sins but God only?* Mk. 2:7b*;* Lk. 5:21
2. Jesus claims to be able to **F**orgive sins also; therefore, proving He is God. Mk. 2:10; Lk. 5:24

*But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.*

1. **Jesus Proclaims Seven Promises as the** *I AM* **in John’s Gospel. *Jesus said…***
2. ***I am******the Bread of Life****: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger;*

*and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.* **Jn. 6:35**, 41, 51

1. ***I am******the Light of the World****: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness,*

*but shall have the light of life.* **Jn. 8:12;** 9:5

1. ***I am the Door:*** *by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,*

*and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*  **Jn*.* 10:9;** 10:7

1. ***I am the Good Shepherd****: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.* **Jn. 10:11,** 14
2. ***I am the Resurrection, and the Life****: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.* **Jn. 11:25**
3. ***I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life****: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.* **Jn. 14:6**
4. ***I am the True Vine,*** *and My Father is the husbandman.***Jn. 15:1**

***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.* **Jn. 15:5**

1. **When Jesus Exclaimed Himself as the *I AM* Extraordinary things happened:**
2. When He identified Himself as the ***I AM,*** the **S**oldiers fell backward. Jn. 18:4-6

*Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him, went forth, and said unto them,*

*Whom seek ye? They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them,* ***I am [****He]…*

*As soon then as He had said unto them,* ***I am*** *[He], they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

1. When He identified Himself as the ***I Am***, He was walking on the **S**ea. Mk. 6:49, 50
2. *When they saw Him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:*

*For they all saw Him, and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them, and saith unto them,*

*“Be of good cheer:* ***it is I****…”* (translated from two Greek words, *ego eimi* = *"****I am,"*** not "It is I.")

1. *And He went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased:*

*and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.* Mk. 6:51

Conclusion: There can only be one **C**onclusion when **C**hallenged *whom say ye that* ***I am****?* - Mt. 16:15-17

* For Peter: *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*
* For Thomas: *And Thomas answered and said unto him,* ***My Lord and my God.*** Jn. *20:28*

Let us all be able to say this to Him as we take of the Bread and Drink of the Cup this day.***O Lord my God****, When I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy Hand hath made…*

 *Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,* ***How great Thou art!*** *(x2)* Stuart K.Hine

**REFLECTIIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 852**

1. If ever there was any person so close to the Lord Jesus to be able to reveal all things about Him,

it would have to be apostle John. He was *the disciple whom Jesus loved*. (Jn. 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20).

He was also in the inner circle of disciples with Peter, James and himself, privileged to be with Jesus to witness His more intimate moments,

1. e.g., when He revealed the majestic glory of His divinity when He was transfigured before their very eyes, as recorded for us in Matt. 17:1-2; Mk. 9:2:

*And after six days Jesus taketh* ***Peter, James, and John*** *his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

1. e.g., when He performed the miracle of raising the daughter of Jairus from the dead as recorded in Mk. 5:37, 40-42; Lk. 8:51ff:

*He suffered no man to follow Him, save* ***Peter, and James, and John****... He taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with Him, and entered in where the damsel was lying…And He took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked;*

*for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.*

1. e.g., when He revealed to them the events that would happen in the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the signs that would occur before His coming to earth in glory in the Olivet Discourse as recorded in Mk. 13:3, 4ff –

*And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple,* ***Peter and James and John*** *and Andrew asked Him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

1. e.g., when He struggled with His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane when He knew that His time was near for Him to suffer and die on the cross, as recorded in Mk. 14:32-34 –

*And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane…And He taketh with him* ***Peter and James and John****, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them,*

*My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.*

John was there with the Lord in all these intimate moments of the Lord’s experiences.

He was therefore qualified to testify very firmly that indeed Jesus is God as he wrote in the beginning of his Gospel – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,* ***and******the Word was God****. The same was in the beginning with God.* (Jn.1:1-2)

***The Word*** was Jesus – *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.* (Jn. 1:14)

John gave proof after proof, and statement after statement in his Gospel to show indeed that Jesus is God the Son, living out His Role as the Son of God to be the Son of Man that He might be the Substitute to die in the place of Man that whosoever would believe in Him might be saved.

Thus. John wrote at the conclusion of his Gospel:

*These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.* (Jn. 20:31)

Paul also wrote: …*Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.* (Phil. 2:5-8, NRSV).

Do you really, sincerely, truthfully believe that Jesus is God? **REFLECT.**

1. Rev. 1:17-18 – *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid his right hand upon me* [John], *saying unto me, Fear not;* ***I am*** *the first and the last:* ***I am*** *He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold,* ***I am*** *alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Heb. 13:8 – *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.*

Jesus as the ***I Am*** is all these to you. Do you believe Him? **REFLECT**

*The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, And God of Love;
Jehovah, great****I AM****! By earth and Heav’n confessed;*

*I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blessed.*

**Points to Ponder:** *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow and Forever,*

*my God and my Lord is ever the Great* ***I AM****!*