**R870 Rumination for 26th September, 2021**

The **T**heme: **Jesus, the living Tabernacle**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext:  *The Word became flesh, and did* ***tabernacle*** *among us, and we beheld His glory,*

*glory as of an only begotten of a father, full of grace and truth.* Jn. 1:14, YLT

The **T**hots:

1. **The Record of John Regarding Jesus –**
2. Re: The **P**erson of his writing: **John 1:1-2**
3. He was *the Word,*

*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.*

1. He was the **T**rue **T**abernacle: Heb. 8:2

*And the Word became flesh, and did* ***tabernacle*** *among us, and we beheld His glory,*

*glory as of an only begotten of a father, full of grace and truth.* Jn. 1:14, YLT

1. *A minister of the sanctuary, and of the* ***true tabernacle****, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*
2. Cf. He was ***E****mmanuel* – God With Us Mt. 1:23

*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,* ***God with us****.*

1. Re: The **P**urpose of his writing: Jn. 20:31

*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.*

1. **The Reality of Jesus as God’s Tabernacle.**
2. He was the Living Tabernacle – *The Word became flesh, and did* ***tabernacle*** *among us.*  Jn. 1:14, YLT
3. He was the Living Word – His SEVEN ***I AM* Statements** in John’s Record compared with the Tabernacle.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Jesus’ *I AM’s* in John’s Record** | **John** | **Cf. The Tabernacle** | **Exodus** | | a. | I AM the Bread of Life. | 6:35 | The Table of Shewbread | 25:30 | | b. | I AM the Light of the World | 8:12 | The Lampstand | 25:31, NKJV | | c. | I AM the Door | 10:9 | The Gate of the Court | 27:16 | | d. | I AM the Good Shepherd | 10:14 | The Altar of Sacrifice | 27:1 | | e. | I AM the Resurrection and the Life | 11:25 | Aaron’s Rod that Budded. | Cf. Num 17:8 | | e. | I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life | 14:6 | *The New and Living Way;*  *which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;* | Cf. Heb. 10:20 | | f. | I AM the true Vine and ye are the Branches. | 15:1 | The Lampstand with its Branches | 25:31-35 | |

1. **The Revelation of Jesus as the “I AM” in John’s Record. John**
2. Jesus is the **I AM, God** in **P**erson!

The Background of the Name ***I AM.***

1. Cf. Moses’ **U**ncertainty: Exo. 3:13-14

*Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel…*

*they shall say to me, What is His name? what shall I say unto them?*

1. God **U**nveiled His **D**ivine Name: *God said unto Moses,* ***I AM THAT I AM:***

*and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel,* ***I AM*** *hath sent me unto you*.

1. Jesus Claimed God’s **U**nique Name,***I AM*** – 18:4, 5
2. *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)…*

1. *As soon then as He had said unto them,* ***I am*** *(He), they went backward, and fell to the ground.*
2. *Some said, This is He: others said, He is like Him: but He said,****I am* (***He).* 9:9
3. *Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that* ***I am*** *(He).* 13:19
4. Jesus is the **I AM** in the **P**ast, before Abraham was! 8:58

*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was,* ***I am****.*

1. Jesus is the **I Am** for **P**resent Salvation from Condemnation. 8:24

*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins:*

*for if ye believe not that* ***I am*** *He, ye shall die in your sins.*

1. Jesus, was the **I Am** was **P**roven at His Crucifixion – He died, was buried and rose again! 8:28   
   *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that* ***I am*** *(He)*.

Cf. A*s Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:* 3:14

Conclusion: *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.* Heb. 13:8

*High above every name Jesus, the great* ***I AM****!*

*Bows to Jesus every knee Things in Heav’n, and earth and hell;*

*Saints adore Him, demons flee, Fiends and men and angels feel* [Charles Wes­ley](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/w/e/s/l/wesley_c.htm)

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 870**

1. Is Jesus God?

Some cultists (Jehovah’s Witnesses) are prepared to acknowledge Jesus as “a god”,

a created being, but not God and translates John 1:1 as “*In the beginning was the Word,*

*and the Word was with God, and the Word was* ***a*** *god.” –* New World Translation.

Here is a refutation of the above, quoted from…

Using the New World Translation to refute the New World Translation: John 1:1

by Luke Wayne | Feb 14, 2019 | Jehovah's Witnesses, World Religions…

<https://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses/using-the-new-world-translation-to-refute-the-new-world-translation-john-11/>

*“Looking just at the wording of the New World Translation, what do we see about Jesus?*

*Let’s take a look at the verse again: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,*

*and the Word was a god,” (John 1:1, NWT).*

*Even if we pretend, just for the sake of argument, that this could be an accurate translation, it leaves us with more questions than answers. If the Word is a god, which god is the Word supposed to be? And what sort of god? By itself, this clause does not tell us. But the verse as a whole gives us an important clue. Instead of the final words, look at the opening words: “In the beginning was the Word.” It does not say, “In the beginning the Word came into being” or “In the beginning God created the Word.” It says that in the beginning the Word already “was.” In the beginning, the Word is already there. The Word does not have a beginning. Rather, the Word is already present in the beginning. Such a phrase implies an uncreated being. If someone were to say “In the beginning was Jehovah,” such a phrase would not imply that Jehovah was a created being. It would point to the exact opposite of that. So, too, when such a phrase is applied to the Word.*

*Notice what the passage says immediately afterward:*

*“This one was in the beginning with God,” (John 1:2, NWT).*

*In the same way that God “was” in the beginning, so too the Word “was” in the beginning. Driving the point home, the next verse explains: “All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence,” (John 1:3, NWT).*

*Note that all things came into existence through Him. Indeed, not even one thing came into existence except through Him. If The Word were Himself a creation, this would be utter nonsense! He could not come into existence through Himself. If He came into existence, He would be one thing that came into existence that did not come into existence through the Word. But the verse here is emphatic: not even one thing came into existence apart from Him. When we ask which god the Word is, we must say that He is the eternal, uncreated creator. He is the God who brought all things into being and who Himself had no beginning. How many gods meet that description?”*

The Lord Jesus Christ is our God, the Great ***I Am***, the Self-existent One, Jehovah (He Who Exists). *What think ye of Christ?* (Mt. 22:42) **REFLECT**

1. Yet there are others who allege that Jesus never personally claimed to be God Himself when He was on earth. One “**I AM**” statement from the Lord (besides others) suffices to refute such allegation.

Consider the Jews’ encounter with Jesus (John 8:56-59):  
*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.*

*Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?*

*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,* ***Before Abraham was, I AM.***

*Then took they up stones to cast at Him:.*

Jesus claimed to live before Abraham, and Abraham was looking forward to His appearance. In addition, to prove that claim, He used God’s title, the “I AM” to claim that He was God Himself and that was what the Jews understood; hence, they took up stones to cast at Him accusing Him of blasphemy in His claim to be God, the I AM!

Knowing this, will you too confess as Thomas did when He saw Jesus face to face.

*Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God*. Jn. 20:28 **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Jesus was God become Man; As Man, He reconciled Man to God.*