

SEE → SAVOR ^[Satan doesn't want us to see this] → JOYFULLY SUBMIT → DISPLAY

We are going to take a look at 5 of Jesus "I am" statements.

Most of the Jews in Jesus time dived time into two ...

There was the **PRESENT AGE** ...

- That was marked by poverty, oppression, suffering, injustice & misery

And there was the **AGE TO COME** or God's New Age ^[Olam Habah – The World to Come.]

- Where God would put everything right by ...
 1. Judging evil.
 2. Rescuing his people from those who have enslaved them.
 3. Restoring his temple & its leadership.
 - Temple was center point of Jewish life. ^[Spiritually, socially & politically.]
 - 25% of city.
 4. Returning to his temple.
 5. Bringing about a new world of peace and justice.
 6. Resurrecting the righteous of old into it.

They are waiting for this New Age ^[Olam Habah] to be brought about ...

- In some way or the other.

I am the Gate

John 10:7–9 ⁷ "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

...

I am the gate ^[or door] for the sheep.

Shepherds as gates in Jesus time.

I am the gate for the sheep.

- The gate towards what?

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. ^[Kept safe.] They will come in and go out and find pasture.

He is the gate towards safety ...

- And he is the gate towards pasture.

⁸ All who have come before me ^[Lets call them "gate-pretenders"] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

Who is he talking about here?

- Who are these gate pretenders?
- Who are these thieves & robbers?

Temple structure → Priests, ^[chief-priest & high priests] Sadducees, Sanhedrin & Pharisees.

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. ^[Kept safe.] They will come in and go out and find pasture.

What is this pasture that they were looking for?

- They wanted to have the life of the Age to Come. ^[Olam Habah]

Jesus is saying, I am the gate to Olam Habah.

¹⁰ The thief ^[again referring to the religious leaders before him] comes only to steal and kill and destroy ...

Now that is pretty offensive.

- He is looking at the temple structure and saying.
- Thieves, robbers → Steal, kill, destroy.

How is that possible?

- How could they be the center point of the Jewish life ...

- And land there?

We are back to **Matthew 13:13 "Though seeing, they do not see, though hearing they do not hear and understand."**

¹⁰ **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

What does he mean by that?

- I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full?

Is he saying that I have come that they may have life easy.

- That they may have health, wealth and prosperity?
- That they may have all their prayers answered ...
- That they may have all their needs fulfilled?
- That they might just have a life will with joy and fun?

If you look at what happened in early Christianity I don't think that is the case.

I have come that they may have life ^[ZOË] to the full.

- The word Zoë is used 36 times in John's Gospel
- And it is never used in the sense of "natural life" or "biological life..."
- But always with the meaning of "real life" or "true life"
- Which is life in him – Life of the Age to Come.

A life where your joy and peace is not controlled by circumstances ...

- Not controlled by there here and the now.
- Not controlled by health, wealth & prosperity.

A life where you find your joy, peace and fulfillment in God himself.

Your joy, your peace, your fulfillment comes from his ...

- His glory and splendor and beauty and ways.
- And not in his blessings.

Augustine "You have made us for yourself O Lord and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

And Jesus is saying, I am the gate to all of that!

I am the Good Shepherd

Context

In the book of Ezekiel, the shepherds ^[leaders] of Israel have done a poor job ...

- In leading God's people and he addresses it in this passage saying ...

Ezekiel 34:1-16 "...²Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?

³ You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock.

⁴ You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.

⁵ So they were scattered ^[living in captivity] because there was no shepherd ..."

He then continues in v.11 saying, "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them ..."

We are in the present time.

- The people are scattered.
- It is a time marked by poverty, oppression, suffering, injustice & miserly

BUT a time will come when ...

- I myself will search for my sheep and become their shepherd.

AGE to COME – Time where God would put everything right by ...

1. Judging evil.
2. Rescuing his people from those who have enslaved them.
3. Restoring his temple & its leadership.
4. Returning to his temple.
5. Bringing about a new world of peace and justice.

6. Resurrecting the righteous of old into it.

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

Good = Kalos

- Does not refer to moral righteousness ...
- But to beauty and attractiveness. [To splendor, majesty, glory.]

I am THE glorious, majestic and beautiful shepherd.

- I am YHWY returning to his sheep

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

What is the cost of the life of the age to come? [Of the pasture?]

- The cost of the pasture is the life of the glorious shepherd.

We cannot live in the presence of God while sin has a hold on us.

- Jesus has come to lay down his life for the sheep and break that hold.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵ just as the Father

knows me and I know the Father [he has the same intimacy in his relationship with the sheep as he does with the

Father.]— **and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

I know my sheep ...

- He knows who has got this.
- See → Savor → Submit → Display
- He can see past the religious talk, the pretense, the fakeness.

And my sheep know me.

- The sheep can see past the religious talk.
- They → See → Savor → Submit → Display

I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

- JUST as the Father knows me and I know the Father.
- ...

I am the good Shepherd and I lay down my life so that this ^[relationship] can happen.

I am the Resurrection and the Life.

Context

Lazarus the bother of Mary and Martha ^[close friends of Jesus] was sick ...

- So, they sent word to Jesus to come and help him.
- On his way there, Jesus decided to take a bit of a detour ...
- So, by the time he arrives Lazarus has died.

John 11:17-26 ¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ^[When is this "again in context of what we have been speaking about?]

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ^[The day of the age to come.]

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes ^[Pisteuo] in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing ^[Pisteuo] in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Let's unpack that ...

I am the resurrection and the life ^[the Zoë]

- He didn't simply say he will give [resurrection and life] ^{Zoë} ...
- Although his is completely capable of doing that ...
- He is saying that he IS [the resurrection and the life.] ^{Zoë}
- He is the life of the Age to Come.

Therefore, resurrection and life ^[Life of the Age to Come] can only be found in him.

The one who believes ^[Pisteuo] in me will live, even though they die ...

Pisteuo – To be convinced of something or someone.

- The one who convinced of who I am ...
- And all that God is for them in me ...
- Will live ^[Zoë – will have the life of the age to come] even though they die.

²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me ^[by being convinced of whom I am and all that God is for them in me.] will never die.

What does it mean to believe? To be convinced of something or someone.

Canal Walk – Makes announcement of Bomb.

- How will you know who believes?

How do you know who believes in Jesus?

Those who believe in him ...

- Are able to see him for all that he is and all that God is for us in him
- Will joyfully & eagerly submit their lives to his rule and reign.
- And display his infinite worth and beauty with an ...
- Ever increasing brightness into the world.

Everyone who believes in me, will live even though they die FOR ...

- I am the resurrection and the life.

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

In John 13 Jesus told his disciples that he would soon be leaving them.

John 14:1–6¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. ^[because of this] You believe in God; believe also in me.

² My Father's house ^[his eternal dwelling place/ home] has many rooms; ^[has room enough for all] if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

Personally, I don't think he is saying that he is going to spend the next ...

- Couple of thousands of years building rooms for everyone in heaven.

I think that his “going to prepare a place for them” is more likely referring to ...

- His betrayal, crucifixion, resurrection and exaltation ...
- That will make it possible for them and us ...
- To enter the presence of the Father.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, [open the way to the presence of my Father] I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Therefore, don't be troubled by my departure.

⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going." [aka – the presence of the Father in heaven.]

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” [Seeing, but not seeing, hearing but not hearing and understanding.]

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

I am the way ...

- He is the way to the Father.
- His death makes access to the Father's presence possible.

¹ Peter 3:18 “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”

And the truth ...

- He taught, proclaimed and embodied the truth of God.

John 8:31 “If you hold to my teachings ... then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

And the life... [Zoë - The life of the age to come].

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

There is no one else quite like Jesus.

1. No one else can bring people to the Father as he can.
 - He is the way.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

2. No one else has seen the Father or been in close relationship with the Father as he has and does.

"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known." John 1:18

3. No one else shares the very life of the Father as he does.

"I and the Father are one." John 10:30

I am the True Vine

Context ...

In the Old Testament the people of Israel are often described as a vine ...

- However, most of the time in referring to them as vine ...
- He was addressing the fact that they were not producing the fruit ...
- That he intended for them to produce.

Jeremiah 2:21 ²¹ I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?

...

Hosea 10:1 ¹ The people of Israel were like a grapevine that was full of grapes. The more prosperous they were, the more altars they built. The more productive their land was, the more beautiful they made the sacred stone pillars they worship. (GNB)

In the time of Jesus, as a symbol of them being a vine ...

- A great physical golden vine hung over the entrance ...
- Of the temple in Jerusalem.
- Indicating who it is that they are supposed to be.

It is against this backdrop that Jesus says...

John 15:1, 4-5 ¹ "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.

He is the one to whom Israel pointed.

- And as the true vine, he produced ...
- What the nation Israel failed to produce ...
- Fruit for which the gardener (the Father) was looking.

⁴ **Remain in me,** [Abide in me, live in me, make your home in me.] **as I also remain in you.** [In the person of the Holy Spirit John 14:15-18.] **No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

The only way for us to produce God-glorifying fruit (John 15:8) ...

- Is by living in vital, loving and life-giving union with Jesus.

⁵ **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

No branch has life in itself ...

- It is utterly dependent for life and fruitfulness ...
- On the vine to which it is attached.

Jesus is the life-giving vine ...

- Who wants to produce fruit through us as the branches?

How? By remaining him, living in him, making your home in him.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.