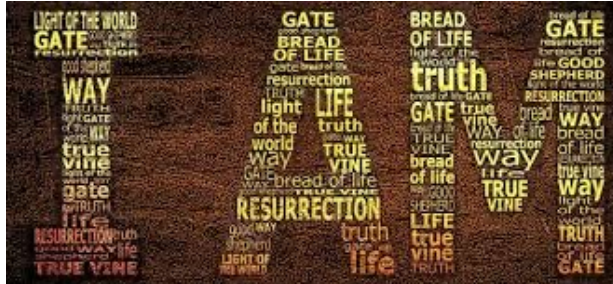


Jesus the Great I Am: “I Am who I Am”

Keys to future intimacy with “I Am”



“God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’””

Exodus 3:14 ESV

“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 8:58 ESV

“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah”

Psalms 24:3-6 NKJV

\*This “hill” has many levels of inheritance. Just like Jacobs ladder that went into the heavens, each rung of the ladder represents one step closer in knowing “The Great I Am”. Levels of intimacy and privilege and the loss of them have been the main story throughout Gods story to His people. From the first Adam to the Last Adam and everyone in between; from patriarchs to priests, from judges to kings, from prophets to servants the list goes on and on.

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

John 17:3 ESV

\*to know: notice what a powerful word this really is!!

1097 ginóskō – properly, to know, especially through personal experience (first-hand acquaintance). 1097 /ginóskō ("experientially know") is used for example in Lk 1:34, "And Mary [a virgin] said to the angel, 'How will this be since I do not know (1097 /ginóskō = sexual intimacy) a man?'"

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Philippians 3:8, 10-11 ESV

“that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:16-19 ESV

\*This incredible offer “to know” God and Jesus Christ is the ‘heart’ of the message of race to the kingdom. This is what we are racing for and the reasons for receiving the inheritance when Christ returns!

“For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’”

Matthew 25:3-4, 11-12 ESV

\*We cannot emphasize enough the costs associated with this race to the kingdom. The ‘oil’ referred to in the parable Jesus told about His kingdom is crucial to understand. This oil actually shows how well Jesus “knew” us! Olive oil was received through the “pressing” of the olive in order to extract this most precious oil. The wise virgin “pressed” in to know Jesus intimately and thus to be known by Him. In fact, Jesus told these kingdom parables from the mount of olives. All three of these stories tell us the levels of intimacy and privilege that are available in the coming kingdom and how they are meted out.(also refer to the article: living the kingdom life on the website)

Levels of Intimacy with “The Great I Am”:

I Am “King”- I need a Queen

“Then the king’s young men who attended him said, “Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king gave a great

feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.”  
Esther 2:2, 16-18 ESV

Warnings:

“I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”  
Revelation 3:11 ESV

I Am “Bridegroom”- I need a Wife

“I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine”

“But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.  
Matthew 25:6, 10-11ESV

Warnings:

“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’”  
Matthew 25:12 ESV

“I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”  
2 Corinthians 11:1-3 ESV

\*only a sincere and pure devotion to Christ will be chosen as a wife! This is what it means to be “wise” and have the extra oil.

I Am “The Judge”- I need Judges

““You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”  
Luke 22:28-30 ESV

### Warnings:

“For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”

John 5:22-23, 27-29 ESV

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV

### I Am “High Priest”- I need Priests

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9 ESV

“and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 1:5-6 ESV

### Warnings:

“Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.”

Revelation 3:3-5 ESV

\*Priestly garments were white and they were given the privilege of wearing them while serving in the temple. Any priest with a soiled garment could not serve and was blotted off the list that lots were cast for the privilege of serving.

### I Am “The Holy One”- I need Saints

““What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.””

Mark 1:24 ESV

“To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 1:7 ESV

“The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

Revelation 11:18 ESV

### Warnings:

“When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 6:1-2, 5, 9-10 ESV

\*The threat of losing inheritance is the key to all the warnings given to the body of Christ!

### I Am “The Prophet”- I need Prophets

““Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.””

Matthew 10:40-42 ESV

“For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.”

1 Corinthians 14:31-33, 37-38 ESV

“The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

Revelation 11:18 ESV

#### Warnings:

“Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who steal my words from one another. Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who use their tongues and declare, ‘declares the Lord.’ Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the Lord, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the Lord. therefore, behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers. And I will bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.”

Jeremiah 23:30-32, 39-40 ESV

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”

2 Peter 2:1 ESV

#### I Am “A Friend”- I need Friends

““This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 15:12-15 ESV

#### Warnings:

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”

John 15:2, 6 ESV

\*It is important to know that this passage is in the context of Jesus evaluating who His friends are in the verse above it. These are all “branches” who were at one time abiding in the vine!

## I Am “Master”- I need Servants

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:26-28 ESV

““Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.”

Matthew 24:45-47 ESV

“And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

Matthew 25:20-21 ESV

“The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

Revelation 11:18 ESV

### Warnings:

“But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 24:48-51 ESV

\*“That Place” was well known as the valley of Hinnom or Gehenna. This place was always on fire because all trash, refuse, and dead animals including the sacrificial animals used at the Temple, were thrown into this valley. This valley from the hill of Jerusalem looked like a “lake of fire”.

“But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Matthew 25:26, 30 ESV

\*Weeping and gnashing show deep signs of remorse! The outer darkness is in reference to being separated from the “light” of Jerusalem and the Temple.

“And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”

Luke 12:47-48 ESV

### I Am “Teacher”- I need Disciples

“And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?””

Mark 12:14 ESV

““If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.””

Luke 14:26-27 NKJV

### Warnings:

“Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.””

Luke 9:61-62 ESV

\*\*If we run a faithful race “in” Christ we can receive these privileged positions. Our degree of faithfulness will determine our degree of intimacy and privilege. Our lack of faithfulness will determine our degree of the loss of intimacy and privilege.

### The Great “I AM” Provides a Place:

““Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

John 14:1-3 ESV



The Great “I AM” provides the Way: “I am the Way”

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6 ESV

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7:13-14 ESV

The Great “I AM” provides the Life: “I am the Life”

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6 ESV

I am “The Bread of Life”- we must eat our daily bread and be the “salt of the earth”

The Great “I AM” provides the Truth: “I am the Truth”

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6 ESV

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32 ESV

I Am “The Light of the world”

“let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”

John 1:4, 9 ESV

## I Am “The Door to the sheepfold” and “The Good Shepherd”

“But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

John 10:2-3, 7, 9, 27 ESV

“And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’”

Matthew 25:33-36 ESV

### Warnings:

““When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’”

Matthew 25:31, 33, 41-43 ESV

\*This “place” prepared for the devil we believe is the worst part of the valley of Hinnom or Gehenna. The worst part we believe is the “lake of fire” references, This at the time of Jesus was called “Tophet”, the place where baby sacrifice was held by Moloch. This was the most “like hell” place on earth. Also we believe that the word “eternal” which actually means “age-long” is a specific length of time that people have to endure the torments of that geographical location, it not for all length of time or eternity like most understand it. We believe the “age” and time frame being referred to is the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

“Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

John 10:25-27 ESV

### The Great “I Am” evaluates His churches: Revelation 2,3

“I am He who searches minds and hearts and will give to each one of you according to your works” Revelation 2:23

Would you like to inherit all of it?

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be His God and he shall be My son.”  
Revelation 21:7

Questions for reflection:

1. Reflect on the idea that the God who created all things in the heavens and on earth wants us to “know” Him. How does that relate to our desires to be known?
2. The “Great I Am” has many dimensions to Him, perhaps even exhaustless. How many dimensions of your makeup can you come up with? Make a list.
3. Which aspect of “I Am” do you relate to the most? Why?
4. What other aspects of Him would you like to “know” better? Set some short and long term goals in order to accomplish this.
5. In what ways do we reward those who want to know us better and in what ways do we dismiss those who show no interest?

\*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!