



I AM Statements of Jesus

I am the Bread of Life – John 6:30-58

Vertical Life Church

Meaning of “I AM”

- I AM is God’s name for Himself (Exo 3:13-15)
- Egypt’s culture included gods for everything important (sun, river, sky, etc)
- People were essentially the slaves of the gods
- Each nation had their own gods (Canaan, Chaldea, Egypt)
- I AM in Hebrew is YHWH (tetragrammaton)
- From the root of “to be”
- God alone has the right and ability to exist apart from all else

“I AM” in Greek

- Rabbis taught their disciples in Hebrew
- However Gospels are recorded in Greek
- *eimi* means “am”. When used by itself it is read “I am”
- *ego* means “I”. When used by itself it is read “I am”
- *ego eimi* together is emphatic (“I am, I am” or “I, even I, am”)
- 7 phrases in John where Jesus uses *ego eimi* with an object
- This would be significant to a Jew of Jesus’ day

Parallels to Moses

- Jesus feeds 5,000, Moses fed Jews in the wilderness (John 6:14)
- Moses had spoken to God face to face (Deut 34:10)
- Law had come through Moses; God promised a prophet to come in Deut 18:15

Parallels to Manna

- Jesus draws differences between manna and “true bread”
- Manna came from heaven (read Exo 16:1-7)
- God gave them manna to test their obedience
- Jesus referred leaned on this when tempted by Satan (Mat 4:3-4; Deut 8:1-3)

Manna vs True Bread

- Manna and True Bread come from Heaven
- Manna given to Jews; True Bread to all mankind
- He who eats manna will hunger again; eating true bread will never hunger again (35)
- Manna gives life to temporal body; true bread to eternal soul
- Complete security in taking true bread (39-40)
- True bread brings eternal life (51)
- True bread also linked to keeping commandments (John 14:21)



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Recap

- Spiritual “food” is more important than food (6:26-27)
- Jews focused on works. Works of God is to believe (29)
- Manna was not true bread from Heaven. Jesus is true bread from Heaven (32-33)
- Only those that the Father gives Him will believe (37, 44)
- No one that believes will be cast out (40)
- Major difference between manna and true bread (49-51)

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Parallel to Unleavened Bread (51-58)

- Jesus refers to believers eating His flesh (living bread)
- This would be repugnant to the Jews
- Drinking His blood would violate Law
- At Passover, lamb's blood used to save them from the destroyer
- Unleavened bread symbolized removal of sin (Exo 12:14-20)
- This I AM statement does NOT point to Lord's Supper. They both point to the same thing
- We could not save ourselves. But will we "buy in" to Jesus' sacrifice?