

# I Am: Part 5

## Deliverer

### Pastor James Bell

John 8:58 NLT

58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"

Exodus 3:16–18 NLT

16 "Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, 'Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, "I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. 17 I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live." ' 18 "The elders of Israel will accept your message. Then you and the elders must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So please let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD, our God.'

So many things that we need to be seeing here. God starts out with the continuous statement of the declaration that He is Yahweh, I Am the God of your ancestors. This continual reminder of "I Am" must be at the forefront of our hearts. We can chose to keep ourselves reminded or God can keep us reminded. And as we spoke last week about El-Roi, the God who sees, we must notice that this is the very next thing that God mentions in verse sixteen. "I have been watching closely and I see". Nothing has happened outside of His knowing.

As we flow into verse seventeen, God mentions a promise made to Abram...but the Israelite slaves had lost sight of this promise. Let's take a minute to review what God had spoken.

Genesis 15:13–16 NLT

13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. 14 But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. 15 (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) 16 After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction."

The promise of deliverance from oppression. A promise spoken to the one man that God chose to start a nation. A promise that was spoken as a covenant.

Genesis 15:17–18 NLT

17 After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. 18 So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, “I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—

Exodus 3:16–17 NLT

16 “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. 17 I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.” ’

I Am the God who sees and I Am the God who remembers my covenant. A covenant that was forgotten by God’s chosen people but God remembers His covenant. And as we continue to read we will see that He is the “I Am” that keeps His covenant.

Exodus 6:6–8 NLT

6 “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. 7 I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. 8 I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’ ”

There were three ways that God was going to fulfill His Abrahamic covenant.

1. Deliver from Egypt: Freedom from slavery and bondage
2. He would make them His people: Purchased ownership
3. He would be their God: Relational covenant

1. Deliver from Egypt: Which means freedom from oppression and slavery. Walking in freedom that God offers is a two-sided coin that intel's true deliverance. To be freed from oppression means that you are no longer forced to labor in and for sin. And to be free from bondage means you are no longer obligated to the oppression.
2. He would make them His people: Purchased ownership. God said I will redeem you. This carries the idea of purchasing but what makes this statement more profound is that is also communicates the redemption as privilege or duty to close relatives. Israel's release by God's power represented the transfer of ownership to God Himself. He created them, chose them, and redeemed them out of slavery. This is perfectly painted picture of covenantal intimacy. Jesus paid the only price that can truly free us. The same blood that frees us from sin is the same blood that frees us from the bondage of sin.
3. He would be their God: Relational covenant. This is the win-win dynamic for Israel. They would be freed from slavery and given the opportunity to serve God. But when we look at this from God's view it brings clearer understanding. They were forced to labor and beaten for and by the Egyptians. They had no relationship with their master. They were only seen as the instrument that brought them fulfillment. But once freed from Egypt they could serve God that desired them. And this desire was evident because He remembered His covenant with the descendants of Abraham. And because we know the story of the Israelites rebellion all throughout the Bible, God never forced them to do anything that they did not want to do. Although disobedience would place them back into exile three more times.

We look at the overall picture and see that the "I Am" gave them a beautiful redemptive plan and they blew it over and over again. But what makes us any different? The perfectly harmonized plan was chronological then and still is today. We have been given a way out and often times receive with gladness the promise of freedom from Egypt. We freely receive that He has purchased us from the penalty of sin. And we joyfully tell people that we believe in God. But I want to show you the disconnect.

Exodus 6:7 NLT

7 ... Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt.

**Then**, alludes that once this criteria was met then they would have the revelation of "I Am" the LORD who frees from slavery and bondage. As we have spoken all throughout this series about gaining revelation of God and seeing the light of the

characteristics that identify “I Am” within scripture but must know by now that the common denominator to knowing God intimately is the Fear of God.

The Israelites were freed from Egypt and God was bringing them to Mt Sinai to meet Him.

Exodus 19:1–5 NLT

1 Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. 2 After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai. 3 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: 4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me.

Seeing God the way He wants us to see Him may not always be instant. The destination is just as important as the journey. The destination is where God is taking us and the journey is how He gets us there. But the Israelites would miss this over and over again. And we are no different. We long for the destination so bad that we overlook the journey, which is the classroom and testing ground for walking in the Fear of God.

Numbers 10:11 NLT

11 In the second year after Israel’s departure from Egypt—on the twentieth day of the second month—the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle of the Covenant.

They were commissioned to learn how to worship God for eleven and half months. This time was purposed for them to know I Am as deliverer that would prepare them for the land of promise. But here is where they failed.

Exodus 20:18–21 NLT

18 When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram’s horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear. 19 And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But don’t let God speak directly to us, or we will die!” 20 “Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!” 21 As the people stood in the distance, Moses approached the dark cloud where God was.

The Israelites had the opportunity to know “I Am” as deliverer but because they lacked the fear of God. They feared God for what He could do and not for who He was. Remember what God told them in Exodus 6.

Exodus 6:6–8 NLT

6 “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. 7 I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. 8 I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’ ”

The one thing that kept them from knowing God in this magnitude was the last of the three aspects to deliverance. They could not know and neither can we if we do not allow Him to be God in our lives.

In Closing:

Luke 4:18 NLT

18 “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,

The captive are able to be free because of the continuous redemptive plan of God. Paul charges us with these words.

Philippians 2:12–13 ESV

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The same greek word for salvation is also the same word for deliverance. Nowhere does it state to work out our salvation or deliverance in the love of God. It is the Fear of God that keeps us from sinning and it is the Fear of God that keeps us delivered.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 NLT

14 Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? 15 What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? 16 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 17 Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. 18 And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

2 Corinthians 7:1 NLT

1 Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

Keeping ourselves clean from the things that defile us keeps us positioned to know Him as "I Am the one who delivers".

Let me pray with you!