

LESSON ONE

I AM

KEY VERSE: "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" – John 8:58

"Friend, your sins are forgiven." – Luke 5:20

"Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" – Luke 5:21

"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" – Mark 4:41

"Who is this who even forgives sins?" – Luke 7:49

"I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" – Luke 9:9

"The whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'" – Matthew 21:10

The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "Before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds – John 8:48-59

1. "I AM" IS _____ WITH GOD

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" – Exodus 3:14

"This is my name forever, the name by which I AM to be remembered from generation to generation." – Exodus 3:15

"Anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death." – Leviticus 24:16

Was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. – John 5:18

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. – Philippians 2:6

2. "I AM" IS _____ WITH GOD

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." – John 8:51

"Abraham died and so did the prophets...Are you greater than our father Abraham?...Who do you think you are?" Jesus replied, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." – John 8:56

"You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" – John 8:57

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" – John 8:58

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. – John 1:1

(Jesus) existed in the form of God. – Philippians 2:6

In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. – Colossians 2:9

"For I have come down from heaven." – John 6:38

"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." – John 8:23

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

"Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." – John 17:5

3. "I AM" IS _____ WITH GOD

"He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." – John 11:26

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

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." – John 10:28

Discussion Questions

1. What is the fundamental question in Christianity?
2. Why is it so important to be able to answer the above question correctly?
3. If you were a Jew at the time Jesus claimed to be "I AM", do you think you would have tried to stone Him? Why or why not?
4. How would you explain Jesus' equality to God the Father to a non-Christian?
5. If Jesus was not fully God what would that say about the salvation of those who have placed their faith in Him?
6. Write out a short personal statement concerning what Jesus' eternal nature means to you: