

John – Week 2 – The Great I AM – Bible Study Helps

Title: The Great I Am: The Undeniable Deity of Jesus Christ

Sermon Summary: This powerful exposition from John 1:1-2 establishes the eternal nature and divine identity of Jesus Christ as Jehovah God. The sermon systematically demonstrates through extensive Old and New Testament comparisons that Jesus Christ is not a created being but the eternal God who existed before time began. By examining the names, titles, and attributes ascribed to Jehovah in the Old Testament and showing how Jesus claims these same designations in the New Testament, the message proves that understanding the deity of Christ is central to salvation and essential Christian doctrine. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the "I Am" who spoke to Moses, the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, and the same Jehovah God who created all things.

Key Points:

- Jesus Christ is the eternal God who existed "in the beginning" before time was created, not a created being
- The phrase "I Am" connects Jesus directly to Jehovah God who spoke from the burning bush to Moses
- Jesus is called the "Alpha and Omega," "the first and the last," "the beginning and the end" - the same titles God uses for Himself in the Old Testament
- The Godhead (Trinity) consists of three distinct persons - Father, Word (Son), and Holy Spirit - yet these three are one
- The King James Version uses specific capitalization patterns to identify references to Jehovah God in the Old Testament
- Jesus Christ shares all the titles of Jehovah: King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Rock, the Savior, the Creator
- Only God can forgive sins, yet Jesus forgave sins, proving His deity
- Jesus willingly received worship, which only God should receive, while godly men and angels always refused worship
- The doctrine of Christ's deity is the standard by which we judge truth and error
- Understanding that Jesus is God is essential for salvation

Scripture Reference:

- John 1:1-2 (primary text)
- Genesis 1:1

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- Exodus 3:1-14 (the burning bush and "I Am")
- Isaiah 9:6; 41:4; 43:15,25; 44:6; 45:15,21; 48:12; 49:26
- Deuteronomy 10:17; 32:3-4
- Colossians 1:15-17
- Revelation 1:8,11,17; 2:8; 22:12-13
- John 8:53-59 (Before Abraham was, I Am)
- John 10:22-33 (I and my Father are one)
- 1 John 5:7 (three that bear record in heaven)
- Matthew 3:1-3
- Mark 2:5-12 (forgiving sins)
- Romans 1:20
- Acts 17:29
- Colossians 2:9
- 1 Timothy 6:14-15
- Revelation 17:14; 19:16
- Titus 2:13
- 2 Peter 1:1

Stories:

- Moses encountering God at the burning bush where God declares "I Am that I Am"
- Isaiah's vision of the Lord sitting on the throne in Isaiah 6, seeing God's glory
- The account of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22, where Abraham prophesied "God will provide Himself a lamb"
- Jesus healing the man with palsy and forgiving his sins, causing the scribes to accuse Him of blasphemy
- The confrontation between Jesus and the Jews in John 8 where He declared "Before Abraham was, I Am" and they took up stones to kill Him
- Peter refusing worship from Cornelius in Acts 10, saying he was just a man
- The angel in Revelation refusing worship from John, directing him to worship God alone

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- Jesus receiving worship from shepherds, wise men, a leper, a ruler, a woman, the maniac, the man born blind, Thomas, Greeks, and His disciples
- The illustration of the quarter game at festivals where quarters are on the edge of falling, comparing it to the current state of the world and Israel being at war

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Discipleship Questions

How does understanding Jesus as the eternal 'I Am' change the way you approach prayer and worship in your daily life?

Why do you think God chose to reveal Jesus' deity through so many repeated phrases and titles throughout both the Old and New Testaments?

In what ways does recognizing Jesus as both 'with God' and 'was God' help you better understand the doctrine of the Trinity?

How would you explain to someone from a different faith background that Jesus is not a created being but the eternal Creator Himself?

What significance does it hold that Jesus willingly received worship while godly men and angels refused it, and how does this impact your view of His identity?

Why is the doctrine of Christ's deity described as a 'heaven and hell issue,' and what are the eternal consequences of getting this wrong?

How do the parallel beginnings of Genesis and John ('In the beginning') deepen your understanding of Jesus' role in creation and redemption?

What does it mean for your personal faith that the same Jehovah God who appeared to Moses in the burning bush is Jesus Christ who walked on earth?

How should the reality that Jesus is the 'Alpha and Omega' influence the way you face uncertainty and change in your life?

Given the overwhelming biblical evidence of Jesus' deity, what responsibility do believers have to share this truth with a world that denies or distorts it?

Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Great I Am" - John 1:1-2

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the deity of Christ and to strengthen faith through this study.

Ice Breaker Question

What was one thing from this sermon that stood out to you or challenged your thinking about who Jesus is?

Key Scripture

John 1:1-2 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

Main Points Summary

1. **The Eternal God** - Jesus Christ predates time and is eternal
 2. **The Godhead/Trinity** - Three distinct persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), yet one God
 3. **Jesus is Jehovah** - The Old Testament Jehovah God and New Testament Jesus Christ are the same
 4. **Jesus Claimed Deity** - He willingly accepted worship and declared "I AM"
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Doctrine

1. **The "I AM" Connection**
 - Read Exodus 3:13-14 together. Why is God's name "I AM" significant?

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- How does Jesus' statement in John 8:58 ("Before Abraham was, I AM") connect to this Old Testament passage?
- Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus after He said this?
- 2. **The Trinity Explained**
 - How does John 1:1 help us understand both the unity and distinction within the Godhead? ("The Word was with God, and the Word was God")
 - Read 1 John 5:7. How does this verse clarify the Trinity?
 - Why is it important that Jesus is fully God and not a created being?
- 3. **Old Testament/New Testament Parallels**
 - Review the chart comparing Jehovah's titles with Jesus' titles:
 - God of gods/Lord of lords (Deut 10:17) = King of kings/Lord of lords (Rev 19:16)
 - The Rock (Deut 32:4) = The Rock (1 Cor 10:4)
 - The Savior (Isaiah 43:11) = Our Savior (Titus 2:13)

Which of these connections is most powerful to you and why?

Personal Application

- 4. **Recognizing False Teaching**
 - The sermon mentioned that some groups (Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons) teach that Jesus is not the one true God. Why is this doctrine so critical to our salvation?
 - How would you respond to someone who says, "Jesus never claimed to be God"?
 - What verses from today's study could you share with someone confused about Jesus' identity?
- 5. **Worship and Response**
 - Jesus willingly received worship (from shepherds, wise men, disciples, etc.). What does this tell us about His nature?
 - How should understanding Jesus as "the Great I AM" change the way we worship Him?
 - In what areas of your life do you need to more fully acknowledge Jesus as Lord?

Going Deeper

- 6. **The Alpha and Omega**
 - Read Revelation 1:8, 17-18 and Revelation 22:13. Jesus calls Himself "the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."
 - What does it mean practically that Jesus is eternal—that He was before all things and will be after all things?
 - How does this truth bring comfort in uncertain times?
- 7. **The Urgency of the Gospel**
 - The pastor ended by noting current world events and saying "there's not much time left." How does understanding Jesus' true identity motivate evangelism?
 - Who in your life needs to hear that Jesus Christ is Almighty God who came to save them?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Jesus Christ is the eternal God** - He was not created; He has always existed
 - ✓ **The doctrine of Christ's deity is essential** - It's a "heaven and hell issue"
 - ✓ **The Bible is undeniably clear** - Hundreds of verses testify that Jesus is Jehovah God
 - ✓ **Jesus claimed to be God** - Through His words, His acceptance of worship, and His miracles
 - ✓ **This truth demands a response** - We must worship Him and share this truth with others
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

1. **Memorize** John 1:1 and one other verse from this study that proves Jesus' deity (suggestions: John 8:58, Colossians 1:15-17, Revelation 1:8)
 2. **Write in your Bible** - Add notes connecting Old Testament "Jehovah" passages with New Testament "Jesus" passages using the chart provided
 3. **Share the Gospel** - Using what you learned, explain to one person this week who Jesus truly is and why He's the only Savior
 4. **Worship Intentionally** - Spend time this week in worship specifically focused on Jesus as "the Great I AM," the eternal God
 5. **Study Deeper** - Choose 3-5 additional Old Testament/New Testament parallels from the sermon notes and study them on your own
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Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

- Share prayer requests related to:
 - Understanding and believing in Jesus' deity
 - Opportunities to share Christ with others
 - Boldness to proclaim the truth
 - Specific people who need to know Jesus as Lord and Savior

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Closing Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for revealing Himself so clearly in Scripture
 - Praise Jesus as the Great I AM, the Alpha and Omega
 - Ask for boldness to share this truth with a lost world
 - Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus as God and Savior
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For Next Week

- Read John 1:3-5
 - Come prepared to discuss: "What does it mean that Jesus is the Creator?"
 - Continue praying for opportunities to share the Gospel
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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." - John 1:1

5-Day Devotional: The Great I Am

Day 1: The Eternal God

Reading: John 1:1-2; Genesis 1:1

Devotional: "In the beginning was the Word." These opening words of John's Gospel echo Genesis, revealing a profound truth: Jesus Christ existed before time began. He is not a created being but the eternal God who has always been. When we grasp that our Savior predates all creation, it transforms our understanding of who we worship. The Jesus we serve isn't merely a good teacher or prophet—He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Today, reflect on what it means to trust in an eternal God who was there before your problems existed and will be there long after. His eternal nature means His promises never expire, His power never diminishes, and His love never ends. How does knowing Christ's eternality change your perspective on your current circumstances?

Day 2: I Am That I Am

Reading: Exodus 3:1-14; John 8:56-59

Devotional: When Moses asked God's name at the burning bush, God replied, "I AM THAT I AM." This wasn't just a name—it was a declaration of eternal, self-existing deity. Centuries later, Jesus boldly proclaimed, "Before Abraham was, I AM." The religious leaders immediately understood His claim and picked up stones to kill Him for blasphemy. Jesus wasn't being subtle; He was directly identifying Himself as Jehovah God. This truth is non-negotiable for salvation. We cannot separate Jesus from His deity and still have a Savior who can rescue us. Only God Himself could pay the infinite price for sin. Today, examine your own understanding: Do you truly worship Jesus as the great I AM, or have you reduced Him to something less? Your eternal destiny depends on getting this right.

Day 3: The First and the Last

Reading: Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 1:8, 17-18; Revelation 22:12-13

Devotional: Throughout Scripture, Jehovah God declares Himself as "the first and the last." In Revelation, Jesus Christ uses these exact same words repeatedly: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending." This isn't coincidence—it's divine revelation. The Old Testament God and the New Testament Jesus are one and the same. When John saw Christ in His glory, he fell as a dead man, and Jesus touched him saying, "I am the first and the last." God didn't repeat these titles accidentally; He wanted us to make the unmistakable connection. Consider how this truth affects your worship. The Jesus who walked dusty roads in sandals is the same God who created the universe. He is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise. How does recognizing Jesus as "the first and the last" impact your daily devotion to Him?

Day 4: The Only Savior

Reading: Isaiah 43:11, 25; Isaiah 45:21-22; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1

Devotional: The Old Testament declares emphatically: "I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour." God alone can forgive sins. When Jesus told the paralyzed man, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," the religious leaders correctly understood that only God could forgive sins—but they failed to recognize that Jesus was God. Throughout Scripture, Jehovah is called the Savior, and Jesus is called the Savior. They are the same. This truth matters eternally. Any teaching that presents a different Jesus—one who is not fully God—offers a savior who cannot save. Are you trusting in the Jesus of the Bible, Almighty God who became flesh to rescue you? Or have you been deceived by another gospel? Today, examine whether you're trusting in the only Savior who can actually save you from your sins.

Day 5: Worthy of Worship

Reading: Exodus 34:14; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:11-14

Devotional: God's Word is clear: worship belongs to God alone. Throughout Scripture, godly men and angels refused worship, redirecting it to God. Peter stopped Cornelius from bowing to him. Angels told John not to worship them. Yet Jesus willingly received worship from shepherds, wise men, lepers, rulers, the blind, His disciples, and countless others—and He never once rebuked them. Why? Because He is God. The fact that Jesus accepted worship is undeniable proof of His deity. In Revelation, we see all creation worshiping the Lamb who was slain. If Jesus were not God, accepting worship would have been the greatest blasphemy. Instead, it confirms His identity as Jehovah in flesh. Today, don't just acknowledge Jesus intellectually—bow before Him in worship. He alone is worthy of your complete devotion, surrender, and praise. How will you worship the Great I Am today?