

PASSION CITY CHURCH

Study Guide

Jesus Is God

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Major Points

- 1 Jesus made seven exclusive propositional I AM statements that set Him apart from every other religious figure, using 'the' rather than 'a' to assert His unique identity.**
John 14:6
- 2 In John 8:58, Jesus made a definitional truth claim by declaring 'Before Abraham was born, I AM,' directly invoking God's revealed name from the burning bush.**
John 8:58
- 3 The connection between Exodus 3:14 (I AM WHO I AM) and Jesus' I AM declaration on the temple mount proves Jesus was claiming to be the eternal, self-existent God.**
Exodus 3:14
- 4 Jesus cannot be reduced to merely a great moral teacher — as C.S. Lewis argued, He is either Lord, liar, or lunatic, and He did not leave the 'great teacher' option open to us.**
John 8:59
- 5 Being 'in Christ' means you are not just following a prophet's teachings but are personally connected to and known by the eternal God who existed before all things.**
John 15:5

Key Quotes

- “Before Abraham was born, I am.*
at 18:04
- “He's not saying, I am not going to show you how to get to God. I want to show you that you're looking at God.*
at 34:00
- “I don't want to just be somebody who knows some of the words of the messenger. I want to walk through this life knowing I know God.*
at 33:07
- “He's making a definitional truth claim. And he is saying literally before Abraham was born, I exist.*
at 18:30
- “Depression's real, but it's not bigger than my God. Darkness is real, but it's not bigger than my God.*
at 33:32
- “The question is do you know that he is your God?
at 32:12*

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Giglio distinguishes between 'propositional' and 'definitional' truth claims made by Jesus. What is the difference, and why does the definitional claim in John 8:58 carry more weight than the seven I AM statements alone?
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2. Pastor Giglio references Einstein's admiration for Jesus yet notes that Einstein ultimately reduced Him to a divinely inspired human. Why is it insufficient to admire Jesus without acknowledging His claim to deity?
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3. When Pastor Giglio explains that Jesus said 'I am THE way' rather than 'A way,' how does this exclusivity challenge the modern idea that all spiritual paths lead to the same destination?
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4. Pastor Giglio connects Jesus' words on the temple mount to God's self-revelation at the burning bush in Exodus 3:14. How would you explain this connection to someone unfamiliar with the Old Testament?
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5. At the end of the sermon, Pastor Giglio asks whether you merely know the words of the messenger or truly know God personally. What does it look like practically in your daily life to know Jesus as God rather than just as a teacher?
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Word Studies

ἐγὼ εἰμι ego eimi

Greek

I am; I exist. In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses this phrase as an absolute statement of self-identification with the divine name, echoing Yahweh's self-revelation in the Hebrew Scriptures. The phrase functions as both a claim of eternal pre-existence and a direct assertion of deity.

Usage: 48 times in the Gospel of John; used absolutely (without a predicate) in John 8:24, 8:28, 8:58, and 13:19

הָיָה hayah

Hebrew

To be, to exist, to come to pass. The root of the divine name YHWH, revealed to Moses at the burning bush. God's declaration 'ehyeh asher ehyeh' (I AM WHO I AM) uses this verb to express His eternal, self-existent, unchanging nature — He is the God who simply IS, without beginning or end.

Usage: The verb occurs over 3,500 times in the Hebrew Bible; its use in Exodus 3:14 as God's self-revealed name is foundational to all subsequent I AM declarations

θύρα thyra

Greek

A door, gate, or entrance. When Jesus declares 'I am the door' (John 10:9), He uses this word to claim He is the exclusive point of access to God and salvation — not one of many doors, but the singular entry point into the presence of God.

Usage: 39 times in the New Testament

Cross References

Colossians 1:15-17

Paul affirms Jesus as the image of the invisible God, firstborn over all creation, in whom all things hold together — directly supporting Jesus' claim to pre-existence and deity.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever — echoing Giglio's point that the I AM who existed before Abraham continues to exist eternally.

Philippians 2:5-11

The kenosis hymn describes Jesus as being in very nature God yet taking on human form, reinforcing that His I AM claims were not the words of a mere prophet but of God incarnate.

Revelation 1:8

Jesus identifies Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come — the same eternal self-existence claimed in John 8:58.

Isaiah 43:10-11

God declares through Isaiah 'Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior' — the Old Testament background for the exclusive I AM identity Jesus claimed.

Further Reading

- **Mere Christianity**
by C.S. Lewis
- **The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus**
by Lee Strobel
- **Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message**
by Ravi Zacharias

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
John 14:6	Read Aloud	10:20	<i>I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one come...</i>
John 11:25-26	Read Aloud	11:00	<i>I am the resurrection and the life. He who believe...</i>
John 10:11	Read Aloud	11:40	<i>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives hi...</i>
John 8:12	Read Aloud	12:00	<i>I am the light of the world. He who follows me sha...</i>
John 10:9	Read Aloud	12:20	<i>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be ...</i>
John 6:35	Read Aloud	12:50	<i>I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall n...</i>
John 15:5	Read Aloud	13:20	<i>I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain...</i>
John 8:48-53	Read Aloud	21:00	<i>The Jews answered him, 'Aren't we right in saying ...</i>
John 8:56-59	Read Aloud	25:00	<i>Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of see...</i>
Exodus 3:14	Read Aloud	29:00	<i>God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what yo...</i>