

# The Forgotten "I Am"

Ps 22:6

## Introduction:

1. It is fascinating to study the "I am's" of the Bible
2. The most important "I am" in the OT is found in Ex 3:14

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

  - a. The name is YHWH or JHWH but the pronunciation has been lost
  - b. To the Jews the name was so holy that they wouldn't pronounce it
  - c. This name signifies that God is self-existent
    1. He determines His own existence
    2. He is independent of anything else for his being
    3. He is separate from His own creation
  - d. This name signifies that God is unchanging or immutable
    1. He is not in the process of becoming something else
    2. He is the same yesterday, today and forever
  - e. This name implies God's eternity
    1. He always has been and always will be
    2. God had no beginning and He has no ending
3. Our Savior had all the attributes of God the Father who was the "I am"
  - a. Jesus is the self-existent One – Jn 1:1, 3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

    1. He was not the first One created by the Father
    2. Jesus was God and He was self-existent like the Father
  - b. Jesus is the unchanging One – Since He is God, He is immutable

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

    1. If Jesus changed for the better - He wasn't perfect to begin with
    2. If He changed for the worse, then He wouldn't be perfect anymore
  - c. Jesus is the eternal One – Isa 9:6; Heb 7:3

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

    1. No one here is eternal – we all had a beginning
    2. Jesus had no beginning
4. Jesus used his "I am" sayings to convey his claim to deity
  - a. "I am the bread of life" – Jn 6:35

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

1. After Jesus fed the 5000 men, the people followed Him and they wanted Him to give them more bread.
  2. When Jesus called himself the bread of life He was telling the people that they didn't need bread, what they needed was Him.
- b. "I am the light of the world" – Jn 8:12
- 12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**
1. Jesus had just pardoned the women caught in adultery
  2. He told the men who had never sinned to cast the first stone, but the men all quietly left.
  3. In this scene of darkness and sin, Jesus proclaimed that He was the light of the world
- c. "I am the door" – Jn 10:9
- 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**
1. What a simple and understandable metaphor. All have used a door
  2. He is the door to salvation and there are not many doors
    - a. Some want the door of good deeds
    - b. Some want the door of good character and morality
    - c. Some trust in the door of sincerity
    - d. Some hope that the door of law-keeping will save them
    - e. Others trust in the door of church membership
- d. "I am the good shepherd" – Jn 10:11
- 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**
1. The good shepherd knows His sheep – He calls his sheep
  2. The good shepherd would even die for his sheep if need be
 

**Joh 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.**
- e. "I am the resurrection and the life" – Jn 11:25
- 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**
1. When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been dead four days
  2. No difficult problem for One who is the resurrection and the life
- f. "I am the way, the truth and the life" – Jn 14:6
- 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**
1. He is the way of salvation and the way of peace, the way to heaven
  2. He is the truth about God, He is the truth about salvation
  3. He is the sustainer of life, He is the origin of / key to spiritual life
5. I could keep on going, but I'm sure that you get the point
  6. But there is a forgotten "I am" that I want to look at for a few moments

## **I. Psalm 22 is a Prophecy of the Cross**

### **A. David is the Writer of This Psalm**

1. But this is not a psalm about him
2. Perhaps David experienced the grief of separation from God in vs 1-5
3. It is possible that David experienced the grief of scorn in vs 6-8
4. David might have experienced the grief of solitude in vs 9-11
5. Possibly David experienced the grief of Satanic hosts in vs 12-13
6. But I don't think that David experienced – vs 14-21
7. It is obvious that crucifixion is in view here
  - a) *David wrote this psalm 1000 yrs before the crucifixion of Christ*
  - b) *But Jews in David's day knew nothing about crucifixion*
  - c) *The Jews used stoning for their capital punishment*
  - d) *Romans learned crucifixion from the Phoenicians who learned it from the Assyrians or the Medes and Persians*
8. David is the writer of this psalm, but he was not writing about himself – he was writing of the Lord Jesus Christ

### **B. This is a Psalm of Christ's Crucifixion**

1. Vs 1 – “My God my God why has thou forsaken me?”
2. Vs 14 - Bones out of joint
3. Vs 15 – Extreme thirst
  - a) *Christ suffered from dehydration from loss of blood*
  - b) *Hanging there in the hot Palestine sun*
  - c) *He had been scourged and beaten and carried the cross*
4. Vs 16 – “pierced my hands and my feet”
  - a) *There is no doubt that crucifixion is in view here”*
  - b) *Nails in the hands and feet*
5. Vs 17 – “cast lots upon my vesture”
  - a) *Mt 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.*
  - b) *The Roman soldiers gambled for Jesus' garments*
6. Vs 21 – It is finished
  - a) **31 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.**
  - b) *That phrase “that he hath done this” is from one Hebrew word*
  - c) *That Heb. word can be translated “finished” or “it is finished”*
  - d) *The first / last verses contain sayings of the Master from the cross*

## II. The Forgotten "I Am" – vs 6

6 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

### A. Humiliation - See How Little the Savior Was Valued

1. See how little value the leaders of the Jews / Romans placed on Jesus
2. To them he was as valuable as a worm - worthless
3. Worm is creature of the ground, frail, helpless, unwanted defenseless
4. Treated with utter contempt
5. The Jews esteemed Christ as a worm, and treated him as such; he was loathsome to them and hated by them; everyone trampled upon him and trod him under foot as men do worms
6. "This is a miracle in language. How could the Lord of glory be brought to such abasement as to be not only lower than the angels, but even lower than men. What a contrast between "I AM" and "I am a worm"! Yet such a double nature was found in the person of our Lord Jesus when bleeding upon the tree. He felt himself to be comparable to a helpless, powerless, down trodden worm, passive while crushed, and unnoticed and despised by those who trod upon him. He selects the weakest of all creatures, which is all flesh; and becomes, when trodden upon, writhing, quivering flesh, utterly devoid of any might except strength to suffer. This was a true likeness of himself when his body and soul became a mass of misery - the very essence of agony- in the dying pangs of crucifixion." - Spurgeon

### B. Condescension - Phil 2:5-10 ←

1. Imagine the only begotten Son of God stooping so low
2. Likening himself to a lowly worm
  - a) *If you think about it, a worm isn't even treated like an animal, much less a man.*
  - b) *Nobody stops their car and says, "oohhh, look at the worm!"*
  - c) *I haven't seen any animal rights activists out screaming for the rights of a worm - "let the worms live! Stop the cruelty to worms! They don't deserve to be put on those hooks. They don't deserve to be fed to the fish!"*
  - d) *They are creatures that are stepped on and despised.*
  - e) *Imagine the Lion of the tribe of Judah likening himself to a worm.*
3. He did not hold on to equality with God
  - a) *But he was willing to leave heaven*
  - b) *He came to earth*
  - c) *He came a man*
  - d) *He became a servant*
  - e) *He was one who died on a cross*
4. What humility, what condescension

### **C. Salvation - "Worm" is Also Translated "Scarlet" – Isa 1:18**

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

1. In Palestine there was a little worm called the tola.
  - a) *When it was crushed, it produced scarlet dye which was used in making the beautiful garments that clothed the nobility.*
  - b) *When our Savior says that he was a worm, he is saying that he took the lowest place, the place of a worm and was crushed in death that you and I might be clothed with beautiful garments of righteousness and glory.*
2. Sins be as scarlet
  - a) *Once dyed scarlet, the dye could not be removed*
  - b) *The scarlet garment could never be made white again*
  - c) *The dye was permanent*
  - d) *How like our sins which stain us*
  - e) *Those sins stain our souls like a crimson stain*
  - f) *No human means can get them out*
3. Only through the blood of Christ can that sin stain be removed from our souls.

#### Conclusion:

1. Thank God that our Savior was willing to go to the cross
2. Thank God that He was willing to spill His blood for my sins
3. Now I am clothed with his righteousness.
4. Vs 14 – “my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels”
  - a. John Gill said, “If the heart of the Savior, the lion of the tribe of Judah melted like wax...
  - b. Then what are you going to do, poor sinner, when you face the judgment of God on your sin?”

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;