

Lesson 2

I AM

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1. What is the purpose of the gospel of John (John 20:30-31)? _____

Throughout his Gospel, John tells us of the claims Jesus made and the reaction of the people to those claims as well as the signs/evidence to substantiate the claims. These claims help develop our concept of the character and attributes of the "Son of God" so our belief in Jesus has meaning and substance. Many claims of Jesus in John's Gospel begin with the words "I AM." This term connects Him with the YHWH of the Old Testament which defines the various aspects of His character and attributes. As these claims are examined, the meaning of the claim, the reaction of the people, and the evidence showing each claim to be true will be emphasized.

Note: all of the "I AM" statements of Jesus in this series of lessons are in the present tense—Jesus IS... We do not serve a Savior who "was" or "will be," but One who "is."

2. What promise does Jesus make (John 8:51)? _____

3. What great men in Jewish history are dead (John 8:52)? _____

The Jews rightly concluded that if Jesus could fulfill His promise (no death for those who kept His words), then Jesus was claiming to have power/authority over death. Neither Abraham nor the prophets possessed this power as evidenced by their deaths.

4. Who would Jesus have to be in order to have authority over death (John 8:53)?

5. Rather than Jesus taking this honor/authority on Himself, who gives Him this honor (John 8:54-55)? _____

6. What does Abraham see (John 8:56)? _____

A. How is this possible? _____

7. The Jews ask a good question. How old would Jesus need to be in order to have seen Abraham (John 8:57)? _____

8. What is Jesus' answer (John 8:58)? _____

A. How old does this make Jesus? _____

B. What is the connection with Exodus 3:14? _____

9. How do the Jews who heard this claim react and why (John 8:59)? _____

10. Put this claim of Jesus, "I AM," in your own words. _____

11. How does this truth help form your concept of Jesus as the Son of God? _____

