

**Whenever Jesus refers to himself as “\_\_\_\_\_” He is saying something extremely significant!**

*Exodus 3* <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”<sup>[c]</sup> This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

**John ‘s gospel flows with \_\_\_\_ of these “I AM’s” and are some of the most effective and useful synopses in Scripture of the God who has come to give us life!**

*John 6* <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.” <sup>27</sup> **Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.**”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “**What must we do to do the works God requires?**”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “**The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.**”

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “**What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?**” <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’<sup>[c]</sup>”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.**”<sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.....<sup>40</sup> For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

<sup>41</sup> **At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”** <sup>42</sup> They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

<sup>43</sup> “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” .... **Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ....** <sup>47</sup> Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> **I am the bread of life.** <sup>49</sup> **Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.** <sup>50</sup> **But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.** <sup>51</sup> **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**” <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” <sup>54</sup> **Whoever eats my flesh and**

**drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.** <sup>55</sup> **For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.** <sup>56</sup> **Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.** <sup>57</sup> **Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.** <sup>58</sup> **This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.**” <sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “**Does this offend you?**” <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> **The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit<sup>[c]</sup> and life.** <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” <sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**” <sup>69</sup> **We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.**”

**Jesus—Reframing their view of “R\_\_\_\_\_ with G\_\_\_\_!”**

Normal View of God:

Proximity—D\_\_\_\_\_ - (controllable, mediated by words, rules and past heroes)!

Expectation—C\_\_\_\_\_ - (???ing status, value, worth, “which list?” and performance!)

Benevolence—P\_\_\_\_\_ - (Why not more, God? Why is life so hard?)

The Jesus View of God :

Proximity— C\_\_\_\_\_ - in fact ” \_\_\_\_\_” right here!

Expectation—B\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_ at a level you can’t imagine!

Benevolence—L\_\_\_\_\_ that g\_\_\_\_\_ I\_\_\_\_\_ “true b\_\_\_\_\_” from heaven!

**Implications of Receiving “I AM” as Bread of Life**

- Receiving (feasting on) “I AM” is an active pursuit involving prayer, worship, meditation, my whole being, discernment of my ongoing spiritual diet ...! Surrender precedes Receiving and Action follows!
- *Proverbs 4:* <sup>23</sup> **Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**