

October 6, 2019

## "I am the..."



*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*  
Matthew 28:18-20

While this passage cannot be connected specifically to the *"I am..."* statements from the Gospel of John, I do believe it is a fitting end to our study. As we have come to understand, in using the phrase *"I am..."* to describe his nature, our Lord is claiming equality with God. *"I am"* is the name God claimed for himself from the burning bush when he commissioned Moses and in using this term for himself Jesus is telling us that he is equal to God as John has already stated in the first chapter of this Gospel.

In this *"I am..."* statement Jesus is giving us a promise based on who he is as well. He tells the eleven, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been give to me."* His surrender to the will of his Father, his death on the cross, and now his resurrection through the power of his Father has proven he is, in fact, the *"I am"*. And as the *"I am..."* he promises us that he will always be with us to the very end.

If we think back over the intimate and personal nature of this *"I am"*, I think we will begin to understand how wonderful this promise really is. As our *"I am"* Jesus is our *"bread of life"*: our sustainer. He is the *"light of the world"* guiding us all along the way. He is the *"gate"* of protection for our fold and the *"good shepherd"* who knows us intimately and lays down his life for us. Jesus is the *"ressurrection and the life"*; the source of our salvation and our hope. He is *"way the truth and the life"* who has blazed the trail which we must follow and he is the *"vine"* that supports and nurtures all that we are and do.

And in our context for today, the great *"I am"* promises the he will be with us to the very end. In a world as terrifying as ours many, if not all of us, are filled with fear, but Jesus is promising that he will always be here; that we, who follow the *"I am"* do not need to fear.

Paul's words to the believers in Rome ring our through this promise. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who have been called according to his purpose...What then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or the sword?... No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any*

*powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:28-39)*



Believers, those who really walk with Jesus and have willingly entered into an intimate and personal relationship with him, can live as those who have conquered, because that is who we are. The great "***I am***" supplies our every need. The great "***I am***" has promised to be right there with us all along the way. What do we have to fear? What can intimidate us? We are "***...more than conquerors!***" But, is that how we live?