

I AM the Bread of Life

John 6:35

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I AM

This week we begin the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. These statements are significant because they reveal, in Jesus' own words, who He says He is. In Greek He used the words *egō eimi* (ἐγώ εἰμι) meaning "I AM." Jesus was identifying Himself with the self-revelation to Moses by the LORD, who stated I AM who I AM (יהוה). This name is YHWH, or YaHWeH, which is rendered Jehovah. This is the proper name of the One True God and pictures the LORD as one who exists and causes existence (harkening back to Creation).

- a. Profession: *"Now go, for I am sending you..."* v. 10.
- b. Promise: *"I will be with you"* v. 12.
- c. Proclamation: *"I Am Who I Am"* v 14. **I AM THAT I AM** (Exodus 3:14ff.)

YHWH - Yahweh/Jehovah

"Ha-Ya" I am first person... Yahweh (the Lord) "He IS" third person.

I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS, or I AM WHO I AM, or I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE.

Tetragrammaton ("four-letter word"): *y-h-w-h*. The vowels are the tricky part. Hebrew is generally written without vowels.

It had long been customary in Jewish tradition *not* to pronounce the name Yahweh. Instead of saying "Yahweh," people would often say "Adonai," which means "my Lord" (and has led to "the LORD" as the traditional rendering of Yahweh in the English Bible). In order to remind readers to say "Adonai" instead of "Yahweh," the scribes added the marks for the vowel sounds of Adonai to the consonants for Yahweh in their manuscripts.

One of the best suggestions is that the name is a shortened form of a longer name, Yahweh Sebaoth (often rendered in English as "the Lord of Hosts" or "the Lord Almighty"; see, e.g., 2 Sam. [6:2](#)). The word "Yahweh" itself is most likely a verb. Many other shortened names from the ancient Near East are imperfect verb forms, which is exactly what Yahweh appears to be. It comes from the Hebrew verb meaning "to be." But if the first vowel really is an *a*-vowel, then the verb likely has a causative sense: "to cause to be." Thus, a fairly literal translation of Yahweh Sebaoth would be, "He Who Causes the Hosts (of Heaven) to Be." In general, then, the name refers to the One who creates or brings into being.

10 Things YAHWEH means (John Piper)

1. **He never had a beginning.** Every child asks, "Who made God?" And every wise parent says, "Nobody made God. God simply is. And always was. No beginning."
2. **God will never end.** If he did not come into being, he cannot go out of being, because he is being.
3. **God is absolute reality.** There is no reality before him. There is no reality outside of him unless he wills it and makes it. He is all that was eternally. No space, no universe, no emptiness. Only God.
4. **God is utterly independent.** He depends on nothing to bring him into being or support him or counsel him or make him what he is.
5. **Everything that is not God depends totally on God.** The entire universe is utterly secondary. It came into being by God and stays in being moment by moment on God's decision to keep it in being.
6. **All the universe is by comparison to God as nothing.** Contingent, dependent reality is to absolute, independent reality as a shadow to substance. As an echo to a thunderclap. All that we are amazed by in the world and in the galaxies is, compared to God, as nothing.
7. **God is constant.** He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He cannot be improved. He is not becoming anything. He is who he is.
8. **God is the absolute standard of truth and goodness and beauty.** There is no law-book to which he looks to know what is right. No almanac to establish facts. No guild to determine what is excellent or beautiful. He himself is the standard of what is right, what is true, what is beautiful.
9. **God does whatever he pleases, and it is always right and always beautiful and always in accord with truth.** All reality that is outside of him he created and designed and governs as the absolute reality. So he is utterly free from any constraints that don't originate from the counsel of his own will.
10. **God is the most important and most valuable reality and person in the universe.** He is more worthy of interest and attention and admiration and enjoyment than all other realities, including the entire universe.

Jesus Provides

"After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ² A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³ Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴ (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵ Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" ⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" ⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹ "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" ¹⁰ "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they picked up the

pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves." (John 6:1-13)

- a. Feeding 5,000 (John 6:1–14). #4 of the seven signs.
- b. Question of faith... ***"Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"***
- c. Boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish (Jesus takes what little we have (faith) and multiplies it.
- d. 12 baskets left over –the abundance of our Provider Father.

CRISIS: Force Jesus to be king –so he left...

Physical bread will always end with our longing for more. The Bread Jesus gives leads to eternal life, never-ending joy....

Jesus walks on the water (#5 sign)

¹⁶ That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. ¹⁷ But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. ¹⁸ Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. ¹⁹ They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, ²⁰ but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!" ²¹ Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination! (John 6:16-21)

Jesus feeds five thousand with bread and fish, then flees when they want to force him to become king. When his disciples set out on the sea in a boat, he comes to them, assuring them of his presence with the words ***"I am"*** (rendered *"It is I"* in the NRSV), which echo the name of God. NLT: ***"²⁰but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!"***

Jesus is the Bread of Life!

²⁷ But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."²⁸ They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"²⁹ Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."³⁰ They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?"³¹ After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."³⁴ "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. ³⁷ However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. ³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day." " (John 6:27-40)

- a. 2nd Crisis of Belief: Having fed the 5,000, the crowds want more food... *“show us a miraculous sign”* v. 30.
- b. v. 27b *“Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that I, the Son of Man, can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval.”*
v. 28 *“They replied, ‘What should we do?’”*
- c. v. 29 *“Jesus told them, ‘This is what God wants you to do: Believe in the one He has sent.’”*
v. 30... *“show us a sign...”* Manna like Moses gave...
v. 32 Moses didn’t give you Manna, but Father God.
v. 34 *“Sir,” they said, “give us that bread every day.”* i.e. Woman at the well, asking for Living Water, but misunderstanding.
- d. John 6:35 (NLT) *“Jesus replied, I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will never be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst.”*

Never hunger, never thirst. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6)

Being **R**ighteous **E**ver **A**nticipating **D**eliverance

Living In **F**ull **E**mancipation