

I AM the Gate/Good Shepherd

John 10

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The I AM (*ego eimi*) statements of Jesus. From the Hebrew word for God, Yahweh!

- John 6: *I AM the Bread of Life.*
- John 7: *Come to me ... thirsty..., and I will give you Living Water.*
- John 8: *I AM the Light of the World.*
- John 9: *I AM the Light* (in a spiritually blind world).

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:1-10)

1. "I AM the Gate for the Sheep." Jesus is the Gate: Protection & Provision

a) Gate – means by which to enter AND protection

“The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.” The lawful and rightful entry into the sheep pen is through the gate...

b) Gatekeeper (positive)

The gatekeeper recognizes the shepherd (and opens the door), and the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice. (v. 3)

Who is worthy?

The sheep follow the shepherd, as he leads, because they know his voice (his call). He has already separated his sheep from the others. (v. 4)

THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT?? (v. 6)

"I tell you the truth, I AM the gate for the sheep."(v. 7)

"When the sheep returned to the fold at night after a day of grazing, the shepherd stood in the doorway of the pen and inspected each one as it entered. He anointed any who were scratched or wounded and gave water to those who were thirsty. After all the sheep had been counted and brought into the pen, the shepherd lay down across the doorway so that no intruder—human being or beast—could enter without his knowledge. The shepherd became the door, the sole determiner of who entered the fold and who was excluded (cf. 14:6)."

"Those who come in through me will be saved." ...good pasture. (v.9)

c) Gatekeeper (negative) Those who hold power – Gates of hell.

"Their purpose is to steal and kill and destroy" (v. 10). Satan is the prowling predator waiting to pounce.

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

Contrast: Jesus – *"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*

2. "I AM the Good Shepherd." Jesus is the Good Shepherd: Recognition, Knowing & Being Known

a) Shepherd – Abraham

Jacob/Joseph

Moses

David

b) The Good Shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep: Jesus sacrificed His life for you!

"No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded." (v. 18).

As opposed to the hired hand... who runs away when the wolf comes.

c) The Good Shepherd knows His sheep: Jesus knows you!

Psalm 23.

3. I AM the Son of God (v. 36). Jesus is the Son: Belonging & Allegiance

a) The Good Shepherd keeps His sheep (protection): Jesus protects you! (Ephesians 4)

b) Belonging

"But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine." ² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not

drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Isaiah 43)

c) Obedience, recognition and allegiance

"²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28)

The sheep that are given by the Father to the Son belong to his flock and are characterized by obedience, recognition of the shepherd, and allegiance to him. They, in turn, are guaranteed eternal life and permanent protection. All the resources of God are committed to their preservation.