**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith* Progressive Bible Concepts - #40 “The I AM Sayings of Jesus – Part I”**

**Segment IV – The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith (Concepts 33-43)**

* Concept 33 – “Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus”
* Concept 34 – “Eyes Upon the Lord”
* Concept 35 – “The Gravity of Jesus - ”
* Concept 36 – “The Gravity of Jesus” Part II
* Concept 37 – “ The Gravity of Jesus” Part III
* Concept 38 – “ The Gravity of Jesus” Part IV
* Concept 39 – “The Identity of God”
* **Concept 40 – “The Identity of Jesus as God”**

**Primary Imperative**

* *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our e\_\_\_\_\_\_ on J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Heb 12:1,2

**Primary Human Need**

* *At the front and center of the wide range of human need is the desire for p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
* *W\_\_\_\_, w\_\_\_\_\_\_, or w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are you looking to for your satisfaction?*
* *“Be a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, O heavens, at this and shudder”, declares the Lord. “For My people have committed t\_\_\_\_ evils: They have f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Me the fountain of living water, to hew out for themselves cisterns, b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cisterns that can hold no water.” Jer 2:12,13*

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**Names of God**

**Centering Around**

**‘YAHWEH’**

* *Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father Who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God;’ and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and He saw it and was glad.” The Jews therefore said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, \_\_ \_\_\_\_.” Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the Temple.”* John 8:54-59
* *“I and the Father are o\_\_\_\_. The Jews took up stones a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to stone Him.”* John 10:10

**Jesus – I Am Statements**

* “Before Abraham was, I a\_\_…”
* “I Am the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of l\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 6:35, 48, 51
* “I Am the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world…” 8:12, 9:5
* “I Am the d\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 10:7, 9
* “I Am the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 10:11, 14
* “I Am the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 11:25, 14:6
* “I Am the w\_\_\_\_…” 14:6
* “I Am the t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 14:6
* “I Am the l\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 14:6
* “I Am the t\_\_\_\_\_\_ v\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 15:1,5
* “I Am the A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” Rev 1:8

**I Am the Bread of Life**

* **Text** *- “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.” Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the t\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world. Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.” Jesus said to them, “I a\_\_ the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of l\_\_\_\_\_\_; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”* John 6:31-35
* **Context** - Jesus had recently fed the 5000. Incredibly some were still asking for a miraculous sign to help them believe He was who He claimed to be. They brought up the manna their forefathers had eaten in the wilderness (Exodus 16:13-18), and that established the context for this statement.   It seems as if Jesus was saying the manna was meant to be a model of the Messiah.
* Whoever partakes of Him will never again know s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Related Texts:** *“Why spend your money on what is not b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and your labor on what does not s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Listen carefully to me and eat what is g\_\_\_\_\_\_ and delight yourself in a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Isaiah 55:*
* *“Do not work for food that s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but for food that endures to eternal l\_\_\_\_\_\_.” John 6:27*
* *“For the bread of G\_\_\_\_ is that which comes down from heaven and g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the world.” John 6:33*
* *“For I Am the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of l\_\_\_\_\_\_.” John 6:35, 41, 48, 51*

*“For those who are h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life.*”

**I Am the Light of the World**

* **Text** *-*As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Jesus answered, “*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I Am the L\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came *back* seeing.(John 9:1-7)
* **Context:** Healing of a blind man. Jesus revealed Himself as light to see or to understand. Literally this means that those who join Jesus as one of His followers will not be ignorant but will be empowered with understanding that makes life work. When we take the time to learn and apply truth in faith we discover that the old adage is true, “Whatever the spiritual q\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Related Texts*:***

* *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I A\_\_ the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)
* *“In Him was life, and the life was the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of m\_\_\_\_. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ every man.”* John 1:3-5
* *“For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”* II Cor 4:6

*For those in d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world.*

**I Am the Door**

* **Text:** *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*
* *A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. So Jesus said to*

*them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I A\_\_ the d\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I A\_\_ the d\_\_\_\_\_\_; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”* John 10:1-9

* **Historical** **Context:** *“The sheepfold was an enclosure surrounded by a wall of rocks that was too high for the sheep to jump over. The shepherds sometimes put thorny branches on the tops of the walls to deter thieves from trying to climb over. An opening in the wall allowed sheep to enter and exit; at night, the shepherd lay across the opening and b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the door of the s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. No animal could get out and no enemy could get in without the shepherd knowing it.” “*Jesus in the Present Tense”, Wiersbe, pg 66.

**Related Texts:**

* *“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and many are those who find it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to l\_\_\_\_\_\_, and few are those who find it.” Matt 7:13, 14*
* *“Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter but will not be able.” Luke 13:24*
* *“He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one can open…” Rev 3:7*

**I Am the Door**

* Salvation is found through Jesus, He is the gate to the Kingdom, and no one can enter except through Him. Having entered through Him we will have the freedom to come and go as we please, dwelling in a state of peace in the midst of plenty.  Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*For those who are w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the d\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

**I Am the Good Shepherd**

* *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.“I Am the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I A\_\_ the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”* John 10: 10-15

**Characteristics of Sheep:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **Well-being** | **Rod** | **Staff** |
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**I Am the Good Shepherd**

* No one expects sheep to be responsible for themselves. Owners hire shepherds for that purpose. A shepherd’s job is to accept responsibility for the s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his flock. Most shepherds only take that to the point where it threatens their personal safety, rightly deciding that their life is worth more than that of a sheep. A few would be willing to risk their lives to protect their sheep, but our Shepherd knowingly and willingly died to save us, because there was no other way.

For those in n\_\_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I Am Statements - Summary**

* “The Bread of Life statements tells us that Jesus is the One who spiritually s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us.
* The Light of the World statement tells us that through Him we gain spiritual u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and wisdom for living.
* The Doorway statements explains that He has given us free and unlimited access to His Kingdom.
* The Good Shepherd statement shows how He did this by paying our entrance f\_\_\_\_\_ with His life.
* *“No less astounding are the claims he made in His “I AM” utterances. These are undoubted assumptions of deity, as is His claim to possess the divine resources to m\_\_\_\_\_\_ all human need.”* Incomparable Christ, pg 104.

**Identities of Jesus Centering Around ‘I AM’**

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 **I AM**

**Jesus – I Am Statements**

* “Before Abraham was, I a\_\_…” John 8:58
* “For those who are hungry, I am the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of l\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 6:35, 48, 51
* “For those in darkness, I am the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 8:12, 9:5
* “For those who are wandering, I am the d\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 10:7, 9
* “For those in need, I am the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 10:11, 14

**Concept 40**

Jesus identified Himself through a specific series of word pictures:

* Bread of Life
* Light of the World
* Door
* Good Shepherd

all of which make the kingdom of God accessible and His care extremely personal to His followers.

**Next Week: Concept 41**

* The I AM Sayings of Jesus