**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith* Progressive Bible Concepts - #39 “The Identity of God”**

**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” Part I
* 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”**

**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

**The Gravity of Jesus is rooted in the following aspects of His Personhood:**

1. His Preexistence
2. His Prefiguration
3. His Incarnation
4. His Virgin Birth
5. His Crucifixion
6. His Resurrection
7. His Ascension
8. His Second Coming

**Please Describe Yourself – Who are You?**

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**Self Identification**

* *“I d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I a\_\_” - cogito ergo sum –* A philosophical proof of existence based upon the fact that someone capable of any form of thought necessarily exists. It was the end of the Descartes’ search conducted for a statement that could not be doubted. Since he was the one doing the doubting, he found that he could not doubt that he himself existed.” ~Rene Descartes, 17th Century French Philosopher

**Self Validating Statements In Plain English:**

* Men - “I e\_\_\_\_, therefore I am”
* Women - “I s\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I am”
* High School Junior - “I d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I am”
* College Freshman - “I t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I am”
* Businessman – “I get a p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I am”
* Senior Citizen – “I watch W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, therefore I am”

**Man’s Concept of God:**

* Plato – *“…the father and maker of this universe is past finding out…”* he referred to God as a ‘g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’ (an expert in geometry)
* Aristotle – “The P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* Hegel – “The A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* Spencer – “The U\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* Freud – “A Magnified F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (a mental projection)
* Helen Keller Story - *“I knew about God before you told me, only I didn’t know His n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

**God’s Identity:**

* But Moses said to God, *“W\_\_\_\_ a\_\_ \_\_ that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt.”* And He said, *“Certainly I will be w\_\_\_\_\_\_ you, and this shall be a sign to you that it is I Who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.”* Then Moses said to God*, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”* And God said to Moses. *“I A\_\_ W\_\_\_\_ I A\_\_”; and He said, ‘Then you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.” And God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham,…Isaac,…and Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my n\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and this shall be My m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-name to all generations.”* Exodus 3:11-15
* God’s call upon Moses to lead the exodus of Israel out of Egypt, threw Moses into an identity crisis, *‘Who am I that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?’ – v11*
* God tries to assure Him by pledging His powerful p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *‘Certainly, I will be with you.’ – v12*
* Moses questions whether they will know who God is, *“What if they say, ‘who is that’? What is His n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?’* – v13
* God says, *“I AM WHO I AM”.* Say, *‘I AM has s\_\_\_\_\_\_ you.’* – v 14
* I AM – verb *hayah* - to be, or to e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* God’s name reveals to Himself to be the self-existent, self-sustaining, eternal, and unchangeable God who t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time.
* The name Yahweh is derived from the word *hayah* – the most sacred name of God to the Jews – and is translated ‘Lord’, expressing the essential nature of God as sameness or unchangeableness – the n\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God (Yahweh) flows out of His i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and His identity (I AM WHO I AM) flows out of His e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I am). Therefore God’s name, identity, and existence are all t\_\_\_\_ together.
* Because of the Jew’s reverence of God’s name, YAHWEH, they shied away from even p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it. So they took the vowel pointing for Adonai, another name of God, and put it on YAHWEH and this led to the pronunciation ‘J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’.
* **Is the burning bush meant to symbolize the self-existence of God?**

**Names of God Centered on Yahweh:**

* Yahweh–Jireh – “*The Lord P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”* – Gen 22:14
* Yahweh-Rophe – *“The Lord H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”* – Exodus 15:26
* Yahweh–Nissi - *“The Lord is our B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” -* Exodus 17:15
* Yahweh–M’Keddesh – *“The Lord who S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” -* Lev 20:8
* Yahweh–Shalom – *“The Lord is our P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”* – Judges 6:24
* Yahweh-Rohi – *“The Lord is my S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”* – Psalm 23;1
* Yahweh–Saboath – *“The Lord of H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (protector)”* – Psalm 46:7
* Yahweh–Tsidkenu – *“The Lord our R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” –* Jer 23:6
* Yahweh–Shammah – *“The Lord is T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (present)”* – Ezekiel 48:35

**Names of God Centering Around ‘YAHWEH’**

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**Jesus Identification with God:**

* *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,* ***I*** *A\_\_.” 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 Self Identity:**

* Jesus uses the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ name of God to refer to Himself. By assuming the name of YAHWEH, Jesus identified Himself with the Father God, implying that He was one (in essence) with the Father. (John 10:30)
* In the mind of the Jews, that was b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Notice the similarity of their responses in John 8:59 and 10:31. They took up stones to s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.
* Jesus, by identifying Himself as ‘I AM’, was e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Himself with the self-existent, eternal, and unchangeable God. That the Jews completely understood His intent is evidenced by their i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ response of aggression toward Him.

**‘I am’ Statement – Significance:**

* “B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Abraham was, I A\_\_…”
	+ not ‘I w\_\_\_\_’
	+ but ‘I A\_\_’
	+ ‘I’ – *ego* - first person personal pronoun
		- I, me (singular)
		- We, us (plural)
	+ ‘AM’ – *eimi –* to be, exist, ‘isness’ – first person singular

**Jesus – I am Statements:**

* “Before Abraham was, I A\_\_…” John 8:58
* “I AM the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of l\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 6:35, 48, 51
* “I AM the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” 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

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

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**Summary**  **Concept 39**

* Jesus stunned the religious establishment of His day when He identified Himself as being one with God – the great I AM of the Old Testament.

**Next Week**  **Concept 40**

* The Identity of Jesus as God