

## THE GOLGATHA TRIUMPH

The Lord's TRIUMPHANT Death, Resurrection, Descension, Ascension, Glory ON HIGH

(No. 6 Continued from page 70)

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Some of the occasions where our Lord refers to Himself as "I AM" [Egō eimī].

### **The Lord Jesus Christ walks on water**

After the day of the miraculous feeding of the five thousand ("not counting women and children"!)) with only five loaves and two fish:

"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd.

After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray.

When evening came, He was there alone, but **the boat** was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

When the disciples saw Him **walking on the lake**, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! **I AM** [Egō eimī]. Do not be afraid".

[NIV (and *all* the other NIV versions) *actually* translates: "**It is I**" and this is regrettably also the common and completely misleading translation in most of the versions (e.g. KJV, NKJV, ESV, ASV, NASB, RV, RSV, New RSV, Darby, Webster, Rotherham, Douay-Rheims, Holman, Update Bible Version 1.9, Good News Translation, New Life Version, NCV, Modern Language Bible, Worldwide English (New Testament), The Complete Jewish Bible, Peshitta-Lamsa Translation, Weymouth New Testament. Likewise the oldest English versions, i.e. Tyndale (1526), Coverdale (1535), Bishop's Bible (1568), The Geneva Bible (1587), Mace (1729) and Wesley (1755),

Similarly other modern versions: "It is I myself" (J.B. Phillips); "It is me" (GOD'S WORD Translation); "It's me" (Easy-to-Read Version); "It's me" (The Message).

However, this near blanket and very misleading veiling of the literal Greek is not absolute:

Green's Literal Translation: "I AM!"

HNV (Hebrew Names Version): "I AM!"

WEB (World English Bible): "I AM!"

The Amplified Bible: "I Am!"

Wycliffe (1395): "Y am";

Biblia Sacra Vulgata (405): "I AM" [the Latin *Ego sum* exactly translating *Egō eimī*]

Young's Literal Translation: "I am [he]" ([he] in square brackets, i.e. not in the original)

Lexham English Bible: "I am *he*!" (*he* in italics i.e. not in the original).

NLT: “Take courage. I am here!” \* (with the \* footnote: “Or *The ‘I AM’ is here*; Greek reads *I am*. See Exodus 3:14”).

Evidently: failure to translate the exact and full force of our Lord using the precise and at that time fully well known expression “*Egō eimī*” from the Septuagint (LXX), means that the unsuspecting English reader completely misses the deep and significant impact of the Lord Jesus Christ claiming for Himself to be the great “I AM THAT I AM” – even GOD Himself, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.]

“Lord, if it is **you**,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”  
“Come,” He said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”  
Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” He said, “why did you doubt?”  
And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “**Truly** you are the Son of God.”  
(Matthew 14:22-33, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

We note that the disciples were both terrified and crying out in fear.

[*phobou*: “fear, terror or affright” – which we know from the English “phobia”]

But when our Lord immediately said “I AM” and they heard this, they knew and recognized that this was the “I AM”, the God of Israel.  
And therefore their fear went away.  
We can see this, because after they heard the “I AM”, Peter is no *longer* fearful, but instead bold, and says: “*Lord, if it is you – tell me to come on the water*”.

[The Gospels of John and Mark also record this event.

All the Gospels, from time to time and as mentioned before, provide what can only be described as a “Divine Comment” – namely a comment regarding something which factually could *only* be known to God.

Thus we find in Mark (6:46-52) the added details:

- approaching the boat, “*He was about to pass them by*” – when our Lord heard them cry out in fear;
- when our Lord and Peter climbed into the boat, the wind died down.  
At that “*they were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened”]*

This is the first instance in the Gospels, of our Lord Jesus Christ declaring that He is “I AM”, resulting in “*those who were in the boat*” worshipping Him and declaring the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ:

“**Truly** you are the Son of God”.

(and note the Divine Author's emphasis in the Greek).

## **The Samaritan Woman**

When our Lord Jesus Christ speaks with the Samaritan woman in Sychar, she at first says:

“I can see that **you** are a prophet”.

The Lord then declares that:

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers **the Father** seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship ***in spirit and in truth***.”

The woman then says:

“I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When **He** comes, He will explain everything to us.”

Then our Lord Jesus Christ declared: “***I Who speak to you*** am He \* ”.

\* [‘He’ is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator].

In the Greek this is literally: “**I AM** [*Egō eimi*] **the One speaking** to you”.

Ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ λαλῶν σοι

[Green’s Literal Translation: “I AM! the *One* speaking to you”;

Vulgata: “Ego sum qui loquor tecum” (exactly reflecting the literal Greek);

Young “I am [he], who am speaking to thee.”

Holman: “I am [He],” Jesus told her, “the One speaking to you.”

NLT: “Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!” with the footnote: “Or “*The ‘I AM’ is here*”; or “*I am the LORD*”; Greek reads “*I am, the one speaking to you*”. See Exodus 3:14].

The reaction of the Samaritan woman shows that she perfectly well understood our Lord:

“The woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

Many of the Samaritans **from that town** believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “*He told me everything I ever did.*”

So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. And because of His words **many more** became believers.

They said to the woman,

“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now **we** have heard for **ourselves**, and we know that **this man** really is **the Savior of the world.**”  
(John 4: 5-42, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

## Reactions of various others

When our Lord Jesus Christ was asked:

“What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered,

“The work of God is **this**: to believe in the One He has sent.”

So they asked Him, “What miraculous sign then will **you** give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?”

**Our forefathers** ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘*He gave them **bread from heaven** to eat.*’”

Jesus said to them,

“**I tell you the truth**, it is **not Moses** who has given you the bread from heaven, but it **is My Father** Who gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this bread.”

Then

“Jesus declared, “**I AM** [*Egō eimi*] the Bread of Life.

He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty”.

(John 6: 30 – 40, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

The reaction of the people to this again shows that they understood that the Lord Jesus Christ was confirming Himself to be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

“At this the Jews began to grumble about Him **because** He said, “**I AM** [*Egō eimi*] the Bread that came down from heaven.”

(John 6: 41, NIV).

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“When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said:

“**I AM** [*Egō eimi*] the Light of the world.

**Whoever follows Me** will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

He spoke **these words** while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put”.

The reaction: “Yet no one seized Him, **because** His time had not yet come”.

(John 8:12 – 20, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

[The inference of course clearly being that they *would* so have seized Him, but were prevented from doing so, *because* “*His time*” (as NIV translates) had not yet come; when that time did come, our Lord – verily God Himself - *allowed* Himself to be seized.

NIV here –*very* poorly – says “His *time* had not yet come”.

The *literal* Greek is well reflected in the KJV:

“...no man laid hands on [*piazō*: "seize, arrest"] Him; **for** ["because": *hoti*] **His Hour** ["the Hour of Him": *he hora autou*] **was not yet come**" (John 8:20, KJV),

NAMELY "THE Hour" later referred to in John 12:23 as "THE HOUR" is come for the *PURPOSE* that the Son of Man should be *GLORIFIED*" (as we examined in Chapter 1).

This is an example of the very many times, in very many versions, where the translators – instead of striving to reflect the original and literal Greek – *deprive* the reader of seeing the *clear inner connections* which are deliberately, and with the utmost precision, provided in the original text by the Divine Author].

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In John 8:20-59 below, we have a long and important dialogue between our Lord and the Jews. It is divided into two parts.

The first part ends with "*even as He spoke, many believed*".

The second part continues with our Lord Jesus Christ speaking to "*the Jews who had believed Him*".

"Once more Jesus said to them,

"I am going away, and you will look for Me, and you will die in your sin. Where *I* go, **you** cannot come."

"This made the Jews ask, "Will He kill himself? Is that why He says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"

But He continued,

"**You** are from below; *I* am **from above**. **You** are of this world; *I* am not of this world.

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I AM [*Egō eimī*] He \*, you will indeed die in your sins".

\* [*He*' is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator].

"Who are **you**?" they asked.

"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied.

"I have **much** to say in judgment of you. But **He Who sent Me** is trustworthy, and what I have heard from Him I tell the world."

They did not understand that He was telling them **about His Father**. So Jesus said:

"When you have LIFTED UP [*hypsōō*] the Son of Man, **then** you will know that **I AM** [*Egō eimī*] He \* and that I do nothing on My own but speak **just what** the Father has taught Me.

\* [*He*' is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator].

**The One Who sent Me** is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for *I* always do what pleases Him."

Even as He spoke, many believed in Him".

(John 8:21- 30, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

“To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said,  
“If **you** hold to My teaching, you are **really** My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and **the truth** will set you free.”

They answered Him,

“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can **you** say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “**Very truly** I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

Now **a slave** has no permanent place in the family, but **a son** belongs to it forever.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill Me, because you have no room for My word.

I am telling you what **I** have seen in the Father’s Presence, and **you** are doing what you have heard from your father”.

“Abraham is **our father**,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do **what Abraham did**.

**As it is**, you are looking for a way to kill Me, **a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God**.

Abraham did not do **such things**. **You** are doing the works of your own father.”

“**We** are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have **is God Himself**.”

Jesus said to them,

“If God were your Father, you would love Me, for **I** have come here from God.

I have not come on My own; **God** sent Me.

Why is My language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out **your father’s desires**.

**He** was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him.

When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me ! Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin?

If I am telling the truth, why don’t **you** believe Me?

**Whoever belongs to God** hears what God says.

**The reason** you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

The Jews answered Him, “**Are** we **not right** in saying that **you** are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

“**I** am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor My Father and **you** dishonor Me.

**I** am not seeking glory for Myself; but there is One Who seeks it, and He is the judge.

**Very truly** I tell you, whoever obeys My word will never see **death**.”

At this they exclaimed,

“**Now** we know that you are demon-possessed!

Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet **you** say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.

Are **you** greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets.

Who do you think you are?”

Jesus replied,

“If *I* glorify Myself, **My glory** means nothing. My Father, Whom **you** claim as your God, is the One Who glorifies Me.

Though you do not know Him, *I* know Him.

If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and obey His word.

**Your father Abraham** rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad.”

“You are not yet **fifty years old**,” the Jews said to Him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

“**I tell you the truth**,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I AM!** [*Egō eimi*]” (John 8:31- 58, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

[The large majority of versions *here* translate fairly literally from the Greek: “Before Abraham was [or “was born”] I AM” – the structure of the Greek sentence simply does not permit saying “It is me” or “It is I”]

Here are several things to observe:

The people clearly understood that our Lord Jesus Christ implies that He speaks from *personal* knowledge, namely that our Lord *personally* saw Abraham’s rejoicing and that the Lord Jesus Christ was *present* when Abraham saw “My Day” and was glad.

That they clearly understood this can be seen from their answer, that Jesus is less than fifty years old “*and you have seen Abraham?*”

Literally it says in the Greek:

“Said therefore [*oun*] the Jews to Him:

“Fifty years not yet you hast and Abraham hast you seen [*heōrakas*]?”

[The Greek *oun* marks the “logical or formal inference”; i.e. “the result of or an inference from what precedes” and is translated as “therefore, consequently, accordingly, so” – *Bauer*,

*heōrakas* is from *horaō*: “to see” and denotes “to perceive with the eyes, see something by use of bodily sight” - *Bullinger*].

Our Lord’s audience would all know, that claiming that He was the “I AM” and *personally present* and saw with His own eyes when Abraham rejoiced, was the same as the Lord Jesus Christ claiming to be God, namely Jehovah, the God of Israel.

[They would also all know, that this claim was likely a reference to the famous instance, when God and two angels *personally* visited with Abraham and God spoke with Abraham face to face (Genesis 18:1-33).

They would also know, that when God first called Abram, He said: “I AM the Almighty God [LXX: “*Egō eimi ho Theos*”] walk before Me, and be thou perfect” (Genesis 17:1)].

“**I tell you the truth**,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I AM!** [*Egō eimi*]”.

Thereby our Lord Jesus Christ unequivocally declared Himself to be GOD.

Reaction: the Jews wanted to *stone* Him: the punishment for blasphemy.

“At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds”

(John 8:59, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*)

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“**I tell you the truth, I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Gate for the sheep.”

“**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved.”

“**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Good Shepherd. **The Good Shepherd** lays down His life for the sheep”.

“**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and **My sheep** know Me - just as **the Father** knows Me and **I** know the Father - and I lay down **My life** for the sheep”.

Again, the reaction of the people shows that they understood, that our Lord was claiming for Himself to be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

“At these words the Jews were again **divided**.

Many of them said, “He is **demon-possessed** and raving mad. Why listen to Him?”

But others said,

“**These** are not **the sayings** of a man possessed by a demon. Can **a demon** open the eyes of the blind?”

(John: 10:1- 21, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

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The Lord Jesus Christ arrived at Bethany to find that the dead Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, had already been in the tomb for four days.

“When **Martha** heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but **Mary** stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now **God will give you whatever you ask**.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Resurrection and the Life.

He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.

Do you believe this?”

Reaction:

“Yes, Lord,” she told him, “**I** believe that **you** are the Christ, the Son of God, **Who was to come into the world**.”

(John 11: 1- 45, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

[Let us in passing note a small and very beautiful detail, not often mentioned - if at all - reflecting the Divine Author's always utterly precise language:

Why did our Lord call: "Lazarus, come out!"

This was *our Lord and God Jesus Christ* commanding, the Living Word, our Creator, He whereby "All things through Him came into existence".

HE commanded: "Come out!"

If He had not specifically limited this command to Lazarus *only* - by *name* - ALL the dead would have come out from their tombs!].

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At the Last Supper, in John 13:18, our Lord Jesus Christ says about Judas' imminent betrayal of Him that:

*"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. **But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture:***

*'He who shared my bread has turned [Greek: "lifted up his heel"] against me.'*"

Our Lord is quoting Psalm 41:9:

"Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread,  
has turned [Hebrew: "lifted up his heel"] against me".

The Lord *then* goes on to say the following:

"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that **I AM** [*Egō eimi*] [who I am] \* " (John 13:19, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*);

[*literally*: "From this time I tell you, before its coming to pass, that, when it may come to pass, ye may believe that **I AM** [He]\*\* " – Young].

\* [*'who I am'* is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator].

\*\* [*'He'* is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator].

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Towards the end of the Last Supper, after Judas has left to betray Him, our Lord comforts His disciples, speaks about the way to the Father, promises the arrival of the Holy Spirit and commands them to remain in Him and love one another.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.

***In My Father's house*** are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that ***you also*** may be where *I* am. You know the way to the place where *I* am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered,

**"I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Way and the Truth and the Life.  
**No one** comes to the Father except through Me.

If you really knew Me, you would know **My Father as well**. **From now on**, you do know Him and have seen Him."....

"....You heard **Me** say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.'  
**If you loved Me**, you would be glad that I am going to the Father,  
for **the Father** is greater than I.

I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

I will **not** speak with you **much longer**, for the prince of this world is coming.  
He has no hold **on Me**, but the world must learn that I love the Father  
and that **I** do **exactly** what My Father has commanded Me. Come now; let us leave.

**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the True Vine, and My Father is the gardener.  
He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

**"You** are **already** clean because of the word I have spoken to you.  
Remain in Me, and **I** will remain in you.  
No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.  
**Neither** can **you** bear fruit unless you remain in Me.

**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Vine; **you** are the branches.  
If a man remains in Me and **I** in him, **he** will bear much fruit; **apart from Me** you can do nothing.  
If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.  
If you remain in Me and **My words** remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.  
**This** is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples"  
(John 13:31 – 15:9, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

Our Lord Jesus Christ continues from here (15:9 - 16:31) to speak about the command to love one another, that the world will hate His disciples, the work of the Holy Spirit and that their grief will turn to joy.

At the end, *then* the Lord's disciples said:

**"See! Now** openly art Thou speaking; And not a single similitude art Thou using:  
**Now** we know that Thou knowest all things and hast no need that one be questioning Thee".

### Reaction

**"Hereby** do we believe: **That from God Thou comest forth**"  
(John 16:29 – 16:30, KJV; *emphasis Rotherham*)

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We have already seen the reactions of the Authorities: the Sanhedrin, the High Priest Caiaphas and the soldiers and guards sent to arrest Him:

At His arrest in Gethsemane:

“Jesus...said unto them, “**Whom seek ye?**”

They answered Him, “**Jesus the Nazarene** [Iēsous ton Nazōraion]

He tells them “**I AM**” [**Egō eimi**]...”

**When therefore He told them “I AM” they went away back and fell on the ground** –

namely they *prostrated* themselves upon hearing this well known phrase *Egō eimi* signifying JEHOVAH: the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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And before the Sanhedrin in the first Council meeting in the evening (quoting the actual *full* dialogue between Caiaphas and our Lord Jesus Christ):

Caiaphas: “Are you **the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?**

I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Our Lord: “**I AM** [*Egō eimi*] And you will see *the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven*. You have said so.

But I say to all of you: From now on you will see *the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven*”.

“**Then** [*tote*] the high priest tore his clothes and said,

“He has spoken **blasphemy!**

Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, **now** [*nun*] you have heard the **blasphemy**. What do you think?”

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And before the Sanhedrin in the second Council meeting in the morning:

“At daybreak the Council of the Elders of the people, both the Chief Priests and Teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

“If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us”.

Jesus answered,

“If I tell you, you will not believe Me, and if I asked you, you would not answer.

But from now on, *the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of The Mighty God*”.

They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You are right in saying **I AM** [*Egō eimi*]”.

[HNV translates particularly well here: "They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say it, because I AM."

HNV is bringing out both "You say it", namely the Hebraism denoting strong affirmation and translating the Greek *hoti*: "because" – and also has the "I AM" in capital letters. A fine example of translation to the highest standard].

"Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from His own lips".

(Luke 22:66-71, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

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Our Lord Jesus Christ declares that HE is the "I AM THAT I AM" and, as we have seen, no-one was in doubt that He thereby claimed to be God Himself.

In fact – although the well known text in Exodus 3:14 is fairly often referred to – it is *seldom*, if at all, brought to the awareness of Christians that our Lord Jesus Christ made numerous *other* references to His Deity by the words He spoke, which directly linked to a number of *other* Old Testament passages.

This we will now examine, in preparation for the momentous events which unfolded at Golgatha.

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## CHAPTER 4

We commence by setting out below in summary form several of the instances where our Lord Jesus Christ directly claimed Himself to be God Himself, including being the great "I AM THAT I AM", the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Moses and of Israel, even Jehovah.

"When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! **I AM** [*Egō eimī*]. Do not be afraid....." (Matthew 14:22-33).

"I [the Samaritan woman in Sychar] know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us",  
"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the One speaking to thee"  
(John 4: 5-42).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Bread of Life.  
He who comes to Me will never go hungry and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty"  
(John 6: 30-41).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Light of the world.  
Whoever follows Me shall never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"  
(John 8:12-20).

"If you do not believe that **I AM** [*Egō eimī*], you will indeed die in your sins."  
(John 8:24).

"When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I AM** [*Egō eimī*] and that I do nothing on My own but speak just what the Father has taught Me".  
(John 8:28).

"I tell you the truth", Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I AM** [*Egō eimī*]"  
(John 8: 56-58).

"I tell you the truth, **I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Gate for the sheep."

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved"

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep"

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me - just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father - and I lay down My life for the sheep"  
(John 10: 1-21).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Resurrection and the Life.  
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die"  
(John 11:1-45).

"I am telling you now before it happens,  
so that when it does happen you will believe that **I AM** [*Egō eimī*]."  
(John 13:19).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Way and the Truth and the Life.  
No one comes to the Father except through Me".  
(John 14:1).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the True Vine, and My Father is the Gardener"  
(John 14:28).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will  
bear much fruit. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me".  
(John 14:28).

"Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth", they replied.  
He tells them, "**I AM** [*Egō eimī*]" [literal translation].  
When therefore He told them "**I AM** [*Egō eimī*]" they went backwards and fell to the ground".  
(John 18:1-9).

"Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"  
"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*]," said Jesus.  
"And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on  
the clouds of heaven."  
The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked.  
"You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"  
They all condemned Him as worthy of death".  
(Mark 14:61-64).

"They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"  
And He said unto them;" Ye say that: **I AM** [*Egō eimī*]" .  
Then they said, "Why do we need more testimony? We have heard it from His own lips"....  
....And they began to accuse Him, saying "....this man...claims to be Christ..."  
(Luke 22:66-71).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God, "Who is, and Who was, and  
Who is to come, the Almighty".  
(Revelation 1:8).

"**I AM** [*Egō eimī*] the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star".  
(Revelation 22:16).

"I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet....Then I turned to see the voice that spoke  
with me.....and....I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands  
**One like the Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the  
chest with a golden band.  
His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,  
and His eyes like a flame of fire;  
His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace,  
and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars,  
out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,  
and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me:

**"Do not be afraid; I AM [Egō eimū] the First and the Last.  
I am He Who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.  
And I have the keys of Hades and of Death".  
(Revelation 1:10-18).**

There is no doubt that our Lord deliberately and clearly – as context and reactions indicate – accords to Himself the very name and essence of GOD.

As it was then, so it is now. *No* subject is more offensive to fallen man than our Lord Jesus Christ being God.

Although not literally emulating the Jews who “*picked up stones to stone Him*”, every conceivable other effort has been made to kill off the Deity of Christ.

If not successful in this, every effort has been made to dilute, destroy, demean or deny the essence of the Lord Christ Jesus: that He was God from the beginning, never laid aside His essence as God, and is God forever and forever.

**"I AM the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God,  
Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty"**

Our purpose is not to elaborate on man's foolish words.

Man's self-professed “wisdom” derives from “*an unrepentant heart*” and from the father of all lies, even Satan.

Our purpose is not to ‘understand’ or ‘explain’ HOW it can be that the carpenter from Nazareth, born of woman, is also HIM – “*I, THE LORD*” - Who declares about Himself:

“And there is no God else beside Me;  
A just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me.  
Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth:  
For *I* am God, and there is none else.  
I have sworn by Myself,  
the word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return,  
That unto Me ***every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear***” .  
(Isaiah 45:23, NIV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

In this we heed Job 11:7:

**“Canst thou by searching find out GOD?  
Canst thou find out THE ALMIGHTY unto perfection?”**

Our purpose is to ascertain “What saith Scripture?” about HIM,

- Whom the apostle Paul refers to as

“our great **GOD and Saviour, Jesus Christ**” (Titus 2:13);

- Whom the Gospel of Matthew states was to be given

“the name **Jesus** \* because He will save His people from their sins.”

\* [Greek for “Joshua”, which means “**the LORD saves**”];

and that:

“**All this** took place to fulfill what **the Lord** had said through the prophet:

“**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son,**

**and they will call Him Immanuel**” (which means “**GOD with us**”).

(Matthew 2:21-23, NIV);

- Whom the apostle John says is

“the one and only Son **Who is Himself GOD**” (1 John 1:18);

- Whom the apostle Paul refers to thus in Romans:

“To them [Israel] belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh is **the Christ Who is GOD over all, blessed for ever. Amen**”.

(Romans 9:5, ESV);

- Whom Thomas (called Didymus) one of the Twelve, initially refused to believe had risen, and then confessed:

“And Thomas answered and said unto Him: “**My Lord and my GOD**”

(John 20:28, KJV).

[This confession by the doubting Thomas after he had seen our Lord’s wounds from the nails and the spear when He was crucified, that Jesus Christ is his Lord *and* God - this confession occasioned our Lord Jesus Christ to say the words which have brought so much blessing down the centuries to all of us who believe that Jesus Christ is verily Lord *and* God:

“Jesus saith unto him, “Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed:

**blessed** are they that have not seen, and yet have believed”

(John 20:29, KJV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

Rotherham and others read – as the Greek also permits – the first line as a question: “*Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, hast thou believed?*”].

Our Lord used “*Egō eimī*” often, advisedly and deliberately, knowing full well that the Jews, including the religious elite, would recognize from His words all those passages – in *addition* to Exodus 3:14 – in the Scriptures He thereby referred to.

These passages (which we examine below) are those where the Septuagint (LXX) - by employing “*Egō eimi*” - translates a number of other well known references to GOD, in addition to the great “I AM THAT I AM” in Exodus 3:14.

In using “*Egō eimi*” with clear reference to such passages in the Scriptures, our Lord Jesus Christ deliberately and unequivocally proclaimed Himself to be God, showing also in *this* how “*the Scriptures testify of ME*”.

[Before examining these passages, let us mention a common objection - in “man’s wisdom” – namely that surely our Lord’s listeners did not speak Greek, so they would not have understood the connection between “*Egō eimi*” and references to Jehovah, or any of God's other Names, in the Hebraic Bible – and the Lord would in any event surely have spoken in Aramaic!

Aramaic was spoken in Galilee (with a recognizable Galilean dialect; Peter was identified by this – (Matthew 26:43).

Aramaic was also spoken in Samaria, whereas Hebrew was the main language in Judaea; and the Scriptures – the Hebraic Bible – read aloud in the Synagogues each Sabbath, would be read out in Hebrew.

Determining the specific language used can, at times, be difficult because Aramaic and Hebrew are closely related, and the spoken Hebrew at the time was likely often Mishnaic Hebrew - a variety of Hebrew heavily influenced by Aramaic.

Greek (since the time of Alexander the Great 331 BC), and to a degree Latin (due to the over 70 years of Roman occupation by the time of our Lord) were also very common; in particular Greek was widely read and spoken.

Since the Divine Author uses Greek in the New Testament, we can know that our Lord spoke this language – because most of the Old Testament quotations by Him were from the Septuagint (LXX).

Our Lord would also have spoken both Hebrew and Aramaic (and Latin) and would – like all Jewish children at that time - know the Scriptures (the Hebraic Bible) from an early age.

At twelve years old He was in the Temple for three days, listening and asking questions amidst the doctors (teachers of the Law), and “*all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers*” (Luke: 2:46-47, KJV).

So – if a dialogue between our Lord and His listeners was in Greek, He would say “*Egō eimi*” and thereby directly connect what He said, to passages in the Scriptures – the Hebraic Bible – referring to Jehovah, as translated by the LXX.

If the dialogue was in either Hebrew or Aramaic then the connection would be even more clear, because in the Hebrew, the Name Jehovah (YHWH) would be “*Ani Hu*” (so as not to say the Holy Name); and in Aramaic it would be “*Ana Hua*”].

Turning then to the passages under “*examination*”, to “*search*” how in this way the Scriptures also “*...testify of ME*”.

## **1. John 4:26 and Isaiah 52:6**

When our Lord Jesus Christ says to the Samaritan woman (*literally* in the Greek)

“**I AM** [*Egō eimi*] the One speaking to thee [***Egō eimi ho lalōn soi***]” (John 4:26)

it would be recognized that the Septuagint (LXX) - translating the Hebrew in Isaiah 52:6 - used the virtually identical phrase: “***Egō eimi autos ho lalōn***”:

“Therefore My people shall know My name: therefore they shall know in that day that **I am He that doth speak** [LXX: *Egō eimi autos ho lalōn*]: behold, **it is I.**”  
(Isaiah 52:6, KJV).

The immediate prior context is Jehovah calling upon Zion and Jerusalem to put on strength and beautiful *garments*. They have been in Egypt, and Assyria has oppressed; they that rule “*My people*” do “*howl*”, and continually – all the day, is “*My Name*” brought into contempt.

Therefore “*My people*” shall know “*My Name*” and in that day (of deliverance as set out in the verses following) they shall know that:

“**I AM He that doth speak: behold, it is I**”

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## **2. John 13:19 and Isaiah 43:10**

At the Last Supper, in John 13:18, our Lord Jesus Christ says about Judas’ imminent betrayal of Him that

“*I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. **But this is to fulfill THIS passage of Scripture:***

*‘He who shared My bread has turned  
[Greek: “lifted up his heel”] against Me.’”*

Our Lord is here quoting Psalm 41:9:

“Even My close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared My bread,  
has turned [Hebrew: “lifted up his heel”] against Me”.

The Lord then *goes on* in John 13:19 to say the following:

“I am telling you NOW BEFORE it happens, so that **when it does happen** you will believe that **I AM** [*Egō eimi*] [who I am] \*.”

\* [‘*who I am*’ is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator]

Young's Literal Translation has:

"From this time I tell you, before its coming to pass, that, when it may come to pass, ye may believe that **I AM** [He]" \*\* (John 13:19, Young, *emphasis Rotherham*).

\*\* ['He' is not in the Greek; supplied by the translator].

Sacrificing the English somewhat, an absolute *literal* translation of John 13:19 reads:

"From now on I tell you before the to happen [i.e. "before it happens, or comes to pass"]  
*ap' arti legō humin pro tou genesthai*

**in order that you may believe** - when it happens - **that I AM**  
*hina pisteuēte - hotan genētai - hoti Egō eimi*

Now let us consider Isaiah chapter 43 - the context - which opens with:

"But **now thus** saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art **Mine**."  
(Isaiah 43:1, KJV; *emphasis Rotherham*)

"The Lord" is "*Jehovah*" in the Hebrew, in the form of another of God's titles, namely *Jehovah Boraaka*: "Jehovah thy Creator".

This is the God of Jacob speaking, the Creator, and the Redeemer of Israel, Who says: "I will be with thee..." (v.2).

In Isaiah 43:3 we have *three* of God's Names all at once:

"For I am the LORD thy GOD, the Holy One of Israel, thy SAVIOUR"

**"I the LORD [*Jehovah*] am thy GOD [*Elohim*] – the Holy One of Israel - thy SAVIOUR"**

We find in this beautiful chapter God saying that:

Israel "*wast precious in My sight...and I have loved thee...*" and that Israel should "*fear not, for I am with thee*" (43: 4-5 KJV; *emphasis Rotherham*).

"HE will say to the North and the South:

*"bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the ends of the earth;*

*Even every one that is called by My Name:*

*for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, I have **made him**".*

(43: 6-7 KJV; *emphasis Rotherham*)

The world should take note, also today, that every Jew, called by God's Name, has been created, formed and made by God, for "MY GLORY".

And – which is important for our context here - this serves as a solemn warning to ALL anti-Semitic forces at work; there will be a Day of reckoning coming, as our Lord Jesus Christ warned, when:

**“before HIM** [the Lord Jesus Christ – the KING] shall be gathered ALL NATIONS: and He shall separate them one from another, ....on His right hand, .....on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand:

*"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

*For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me"*

Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying:

*"Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee?"*

And the King shall answer and say unto them: **"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of THESE My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"**

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand:

*"Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and the angles:*

*For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in: naked, and ye clothed Me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited Me not"*

Then shall they also answer Him, saying:

*"Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee?"*

Then shall HE answer them, saying: **"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it NOT to one of the least of these, ye did it NOT to ME"**

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal". (Matthew 25:31-46, KJV).

ALL the world, *all* mankind, has plainly been told by Almighty God:

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram [before God changed his name to "Abraham"]

*"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*

*And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

***And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee:  
and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed";***

(Genesis 12:1-3, KJV).

And:

**"For thus saith the Lord of Hosts** [*Jehovah Zebaoth* – speaking about Jerusalem]...

*...the Nations which spoiled you,*

***for he that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of HIS eye"***

(Zechariah 2:8, KJV).

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, corrects the mistaken and misguided view (heavily promoted by the great Liar, even Satan) regrettably held by many Christians *then* – and equally held by a disturbing large number of self-professing Christians *today*, - namely that God had cast His chosen people Israel aside forever. This is wholly un-scriptural.

The apostle John reminds us, that "**salvation is of the Jews**" (John 4:22).

Paul also states that:

"I say the truth in Christ...I have a great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart...for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Who are Israelites;

- to whom pertaineth the adoption,
- and the glory,
- and the covenants,
- and the giving of the Law,
- and the service of God,
- and the promises;

Whose are the fathers, **and of whom as concerning the flesh CHRIST came Who is over all God** blessed for ever"

(Romans 9:1-5, KJV).

Paul then goes on and unequivocally states the following:

"Did not Israel know?...But to Israel He saith, "*All day long have I stretched forth My hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people*".

I say then "**Had God cast away His people?**" **God forbid!**

For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

**God hath NOT cast away His people which He foreknew...**For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits;

**that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

**And SO ALL Israel shall be saved:** as it is written:

*"there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away the ungodliness from Jacob: for this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins".*

[quoting Isaiah 59:20,21 *combined* with Isaiah 27:9].

"As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes:

**but as touching *the election* they are beloved for the fathers' sake.**

FOR the gifts and calling of God are without repentance".

(Romans 10 & 11, KJV).

In *that* context and reverting to Isaiah 43, let us then take note that Israel was separated out from among the Nations, also to *bear witness* about God:

"I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: **therefore ye are My witnesses**, saith the LORD, **that I am God.**

Yea, before the day was **I am He** \*  
and there is **none that can deliver out of My hand**: I will work, and who shall let it?"  
(43:12-13, KJV).

\* [not "*Egō eimi*" in LXX, but the emphatic "*Egō ho Theos*" – "*I am **the** [true] God*"]

God refers to Himself as "*The Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel*",  
and states that

**"I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King".**

It is regarding THIS HOLY ONE that Isaiah 43:10 says:

"Ye are My witnesses, saith the LORD, and My Servant Whom I have chosen:  
**that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I AM He**:  
before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me".

In the Septuagint (LXX) Isaiah 43:10 is rendered:

**"hina** [in order that] *gnōte kai* [you may know, and]  
**pisteusēte** [you may believe] *kai sunēte* [and may understand]  
**hoti Egō eimi** [**that I AM**"]".

In John 13:19 we have, as referred to previously:

"From now on [*ap' artū*] I tell you [*legō humin*] before the to happen [*pro tou genesthai*, i.e.  
"before it happens" or "comes to pass"]

**"hina** [in order that]  
**pisteuēte** [you may believe] when it happens [*hotan genētai*]  
**hoti Egō eimi** [**that I AM**"]"

13:19:                    "...in order that...you may believe...that.....I    **AM**"  
".....**hina**.....**pisteuēte**... ..**hoti**....**Egō eimi**"

Isaiah 43:10:            "...in order that...you may believe...that.....I    **AM**"  
".....**hina**..... **pisteusēte**.....**hoti**....**Egō eimi**"

Everyone listening to our Lord would have recognized this particular phrase  
and would have made the clear connection between what He said in John  
13:19 *and* Isaiah 43:10.

Indisputably our Lord Jesus Christ uses language and references about  
Himself which any of His listeners would connect with HIM claiming that

**"I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King".**

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**(Continued in our next)**

