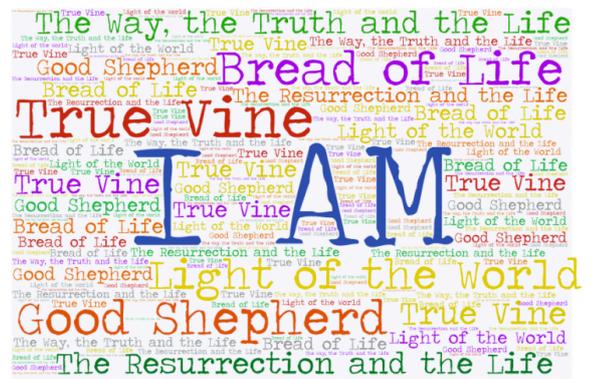


the "I AM" series introduction

John's gospel records Jesus using 7 clear "I am" statements:

- I am the bread of life *John 6:35*
- I am the light of the world *John 8:12*
- I am the gate *John 10:7*
- I am the good shepherd *John 10:11*
- I am the resurrection and the life *John 11:25*
- I am the way, the truth and the life *John 14:6*
- I am the true vine *John 15:1*



But these words "I Am" would have taken Jewish hearers back to a key moment in their history when God spoke to Moses from a burning bush and sent him back to Egypt to lead the people of Israel to freedom. Moses was worried that the Israelites would want to know who had sent him and so he asked God what his name was. God answered: "I am who I am", tell them "I am" has sent you. This name YHWH – I am, was the covenant name of the Lord God Almighty and so precious and holy that Jewish scholars didn't even write it.

Now hundreds of years later, an itinerant Jewish teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, uses this name to describe himself. He is claiming to be no less than the Lord God himself.

We look at all 7 statements in our sermons in Lent 2018, and some of them will be studied in more detail in our small groups. What is it that Jesus is claiming and how do his words transform our lives today?

These studies assume use of the NIV Bible translation, but others may be helpful to shed additional light on your discussion.