

When I was a youth we used to say to someone who was full of their self importance, "You are a big I am!" I now realise that this saying alluded to a most important statement made in the Bible. The Egyptians had many gods, some were figures of animals, and they also worshipped the sun god. These gods had different names, meanings and powers.

Moses was brought up in this culture, and so when the true God revealed Himself to him and told him to bring Israel out of slavery, Moses asked Him His name. 'And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14). So the true Creator God is seen in the '**Great I AM!**' His name reveals to us something of His character.

This name '**I AM**' is identical to '**Jehovah**' generally translated as 'LORD'. It teaches us that He is **personal**, and **eternally existing**, and also a **revealing One**. He is unchanging and remains the same, so that His promises made to the human race will be fulfilled, and the **revelation** of His redeeming love and mercy are unchanging even though we as a race fail Him and turn from Him. **He does not wish to remain hidden from us!**

He keeps His promises and the covenants He has made. It is only as we carefully read the Bible that we come to appreciate the great scope of these. These promises or covenants were made to Adam at creation, and were extended to Noah, Abraham and Moses. They are called 'The Old Covenant'.

They have their greatest fulfilment in the Lord Jesus Christ who brought in 'The New Covenant'. He came **to fully reveal** the Great I AM of the Old Covenant to the human race. He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**" He existed before Abraham was born! The babe Jesus, born in Bethlehem, had no human father, for He was conceived supernaturally as the Holy Spirit came upon the virgin Mary. This the Old Testament prophets had foretold.

In life He was unique. He did no sin, His walk and words were unequalled among men. His power was infinite, for he gave sight to the blind, healed all diseased and even raised a number of dead people. He exhibited all the attributes of deity. He knew all things, even what people were thinking; He controlled nature by calming a storm; and He was able to do all things.

When Judas the betrayer came with soldiers to take Him prisoner, Jesus asked them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth". Now when He said to them, "**I AM**", they drew back and fell to the ground" (John 18:1-6). They were in the presence of the great **I AM** who had come in human form. The Bible tells us that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19).

This is the amazing story of the promises God has made in the Bible. The Jewish Messiah or Christ, would be born of a virgin, would be 'Emmanuel', meaning 'God with us' and would die for our sins and be raised from the dead and rule in heaven and one day on earth. Jesus said:

"**I am** the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). "**I am** the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). "**I am** the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). "**I am** the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). "**I am** the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

No human being could ever make such claims! And the greatest wonder is that in the plan of the "Great I AM", He would send His unique Son to die as our substitute, and in this way redeem us from our sins. This is the greatest story ever told!