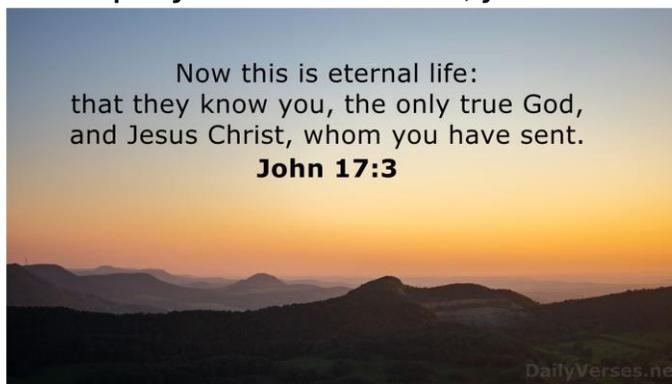


Throughout this year on the first Sunday of every month, when we celebrate the LORD’s table, remembering the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, I have taught, and will continue to do so... on the triune nature of God.

In his prayer to the Father, just before he was arrested, Jesus said....

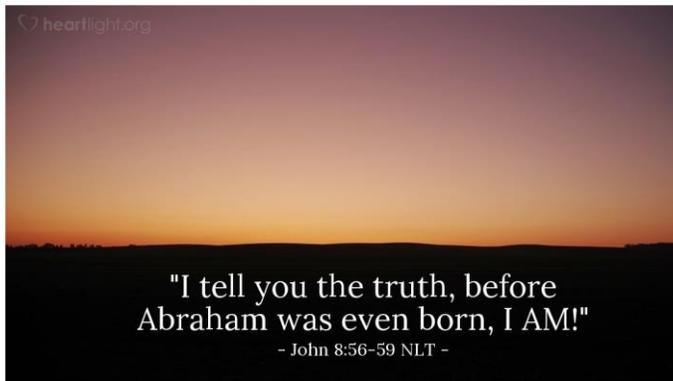


I greatly desire... that we would know God, as he has revealed himself to be.

He is One who is Three.

Our study of the triune God is intended to be a study that leads us to experience God, to enjoy fellowship with him and to receive from him the life that is truly life.

In John 8:58, Jesus made a puzzling statement that when understood by faith is glorious.



If I was to say to you, “Before Christopher Colombus landed on the shores of what many called the New World, I am,”you would be puzzled, even be concerned for my mental well-being.

Saying, “I am”... implies I was alive... when Columbus arrived, but I wasn’t.

So what did Jesus mean?

Did he mistakenly mix up the tenses because he was tired?

I don’t think so.

Everything Jesus did was purposeful and deliberate.

In order to understand what Jesus meant... we must put that incident and what he said... alongside a previous incident that took place 1500 years earlier.

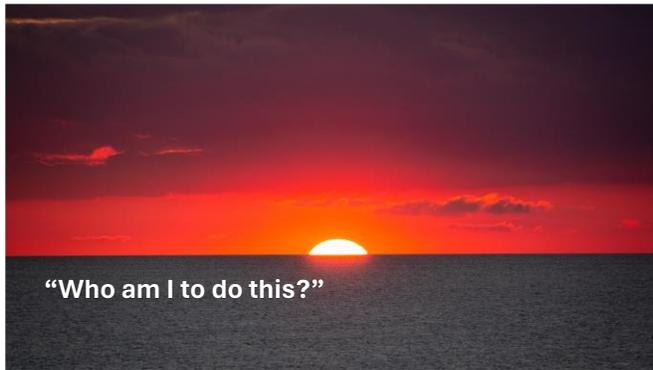
Moses who grew up in Pharaoh’s home, fled Egypt when he was forty years old... because he had killed an Egyptian.

For the next forty years he lived in the wilderness, tending sheep.

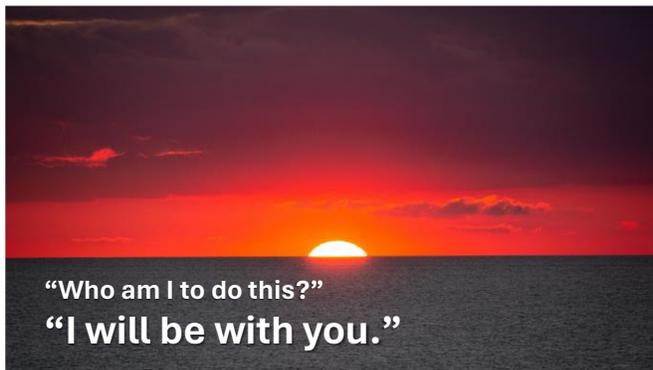
One day he came upon a bush that was burning... but that wasn’t being consumed.

A voice, the voice of God... spoke to Moses out of that burning bush, and commanded him to go to Egypt and free the Hebrews from their slavery.

Moses believed this to be an impossible task.



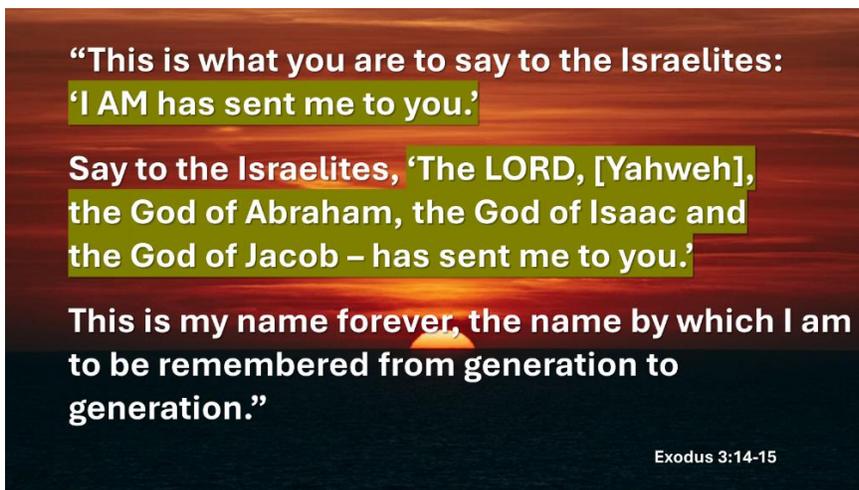
But God answered him,



Moses had another question.

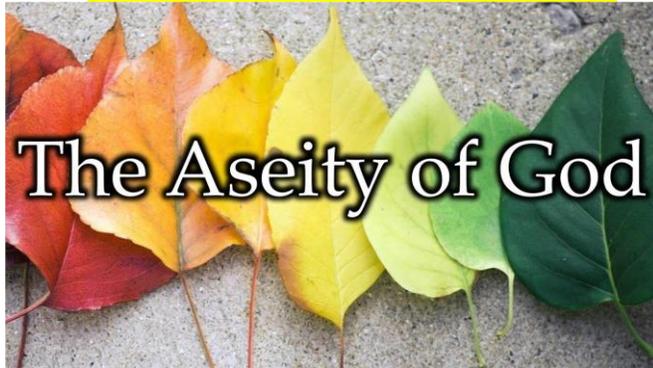
“What if the Hebrew people ask me, what is God’s name... what am I to say to them?”

God answered...



According to Ligonier ministries the name that God gave to Moses—
“I AM WHO I AM”—

... is a revelation of God's aseity.



What does that mean?

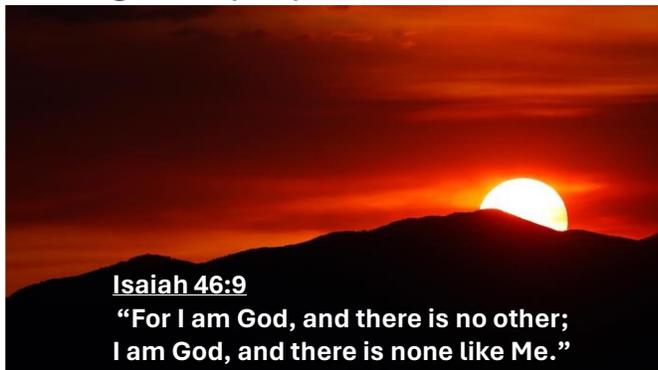
gotquestions.org explains.

The aseity of God is His attribute of **independent self-existence**.

God is the uncaused Cause, the uncreated Creator.

The ever-present God of life who sustains everything that exists.

Through the prophet Isaiah said...



As the uncaused Cause...God is not dependent on anyone or anything in order to be who He is and to do what He purposes to do.

Yahweh did not need Pharaoh's cooperation to rescue the Hebrews. In fact, Yahweh, who knew that Pharaoh would resist him every step of the way... determined... that through that stubbornness of Pharaoh, he would strike the gods of Egypt and reveal them for what they were – **utter and complete frauds**.

Through the ten plagues that struck Egypt... God magnified his person, and demonstrated...
... that He alone is eternal...

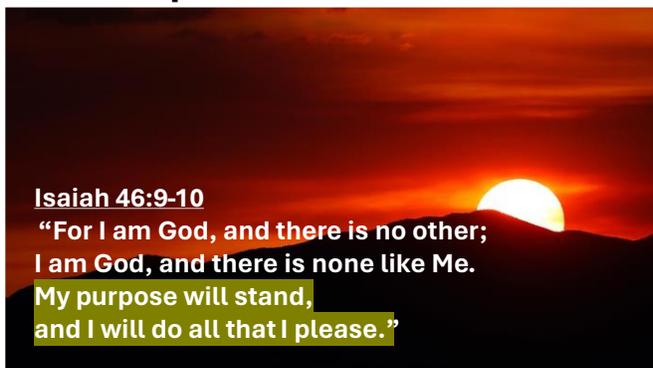


... that He alone is unchangeable.



“I AM WHO I AM” ... will be what he is forever.
All of God’s attributes—His love, his power, his wisdom, his grace, his mercy, his holiness— are as they have always been... and will never be any different.

When God says, **“My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please”...**



...he is emphasizing His aseity ... and sovereignty.

God's autonomy is absolute.

Nothing and no one can ever thwart him from doing what he has promised.

Jesus was asked by those listening to him, John 8:25...



His answer... "I AM."

As God told Moses... Jesus unequivocally stated to his audience...
I AM eternal.

As God told Moses... and Jesus plainly stated to his audience ...
I have always been.

As God told Moses... and Jesus without any confusion told his
audience... I AM self-existent and self-sufficient.

As God told Moses... and Jesus openly stated to his audience ...
I depend upon no one or anything.

There was absolutely no ambiguity in what Jesus said.

He claimed to be the God who had spoken to Moses out of the
burning bush.

And by the way, this was not the only time he did so.

In the garden of Gethsemane, John 18 says...

...Jesus knowing all that was going to happen, asked the crowd who
had come to arrest him, **"Who is it you want?"**

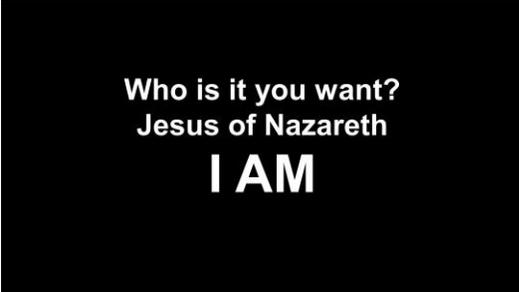
They replied, **"Jesus of Nazareth."**

In our English translation, it says that Jesus replied, **“I am he.”**
But in the Greek language Jesus’ answer was...



ἐγώ εἰμι
ego emi
I AM

Look again at the sequence.



Who is it you want?
Jesus of Nazareth
I AM

Jesus’ declaration makes sense of the crowd’s response, in verse 6,
“...they drew back and fell to the ground.”

Why did the crowd step back?

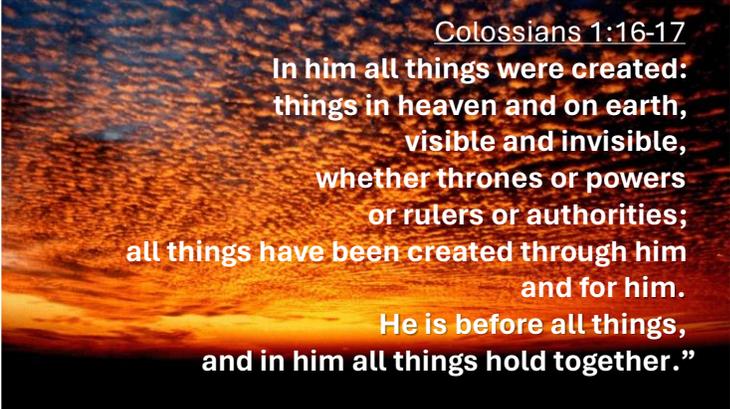
Why did they fall to the ground?

Because of **“who”** Jesus said he is.

He is... I AM.

Jesus Christ, who is God in flesh, shares with the Father... the aseity of God.

Paul wrote of this in Colossians 1:16-17...



Colossians 1:16-17
In him all things were created:
things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or powers
or rulers or authorities;
all things have been created through him
and for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.”

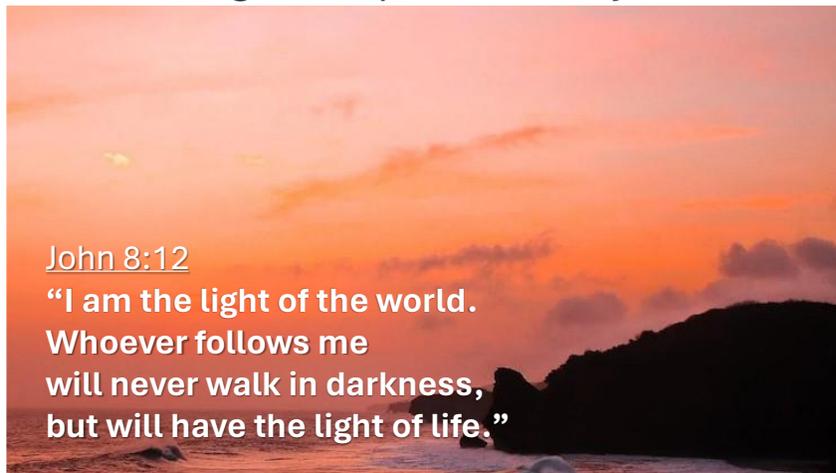
Jesus is not a created being.

He is the eternal God.

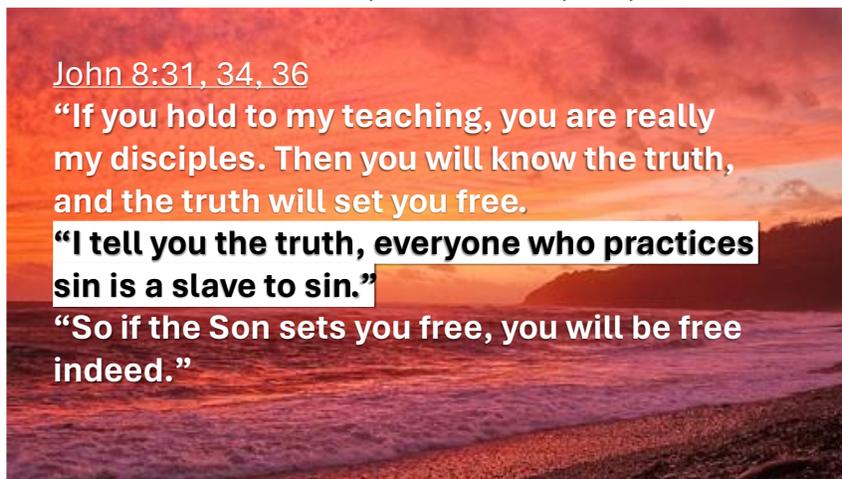
He is... I AM.

Jesus came to the earth as God in human flesh and after His resurrection ascended back into heaven to take His rightful place as Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

As Jesus taught that particular day, He said...

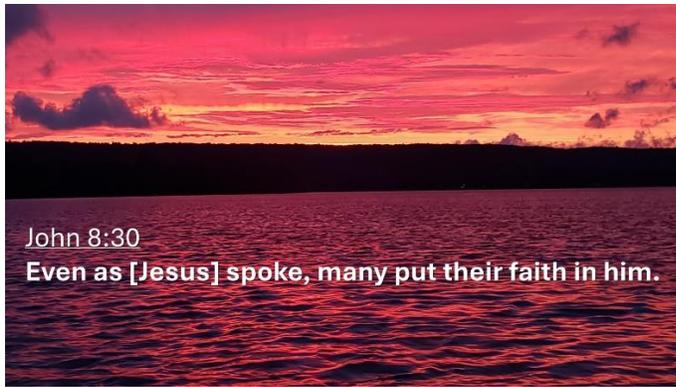


He told his listeners, John 8:31, 34, 36



Jesus faced a hostile audience that day.

But look at what the apostle wrote... it is truly amazing!



John 8:30
Even as [Jesus] spoke, many put their faith in him.

The Spirit of God who was present with and empowered Jesus every day of his life upon the earth, was also present, opening blinded minds and reviving deadened hearts.... to perceive the beauty of Yahweh... in the person of Jesus... who had come into the world and taken on to himself, human flesh.

Jesus who is ... I AM 1500 hundred years earlier had rescued the Hebrews and taken them out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan. Jesus who is... I AM... had come into the world... to bring about an exodus which Moses' had pointed towards.

Jesus' exodus would rescue those who believed in him... from their slavery to sin.

Jesus' rescue would take those who believed in him... out of the dominion of darkness and bring them into the glorious kingdom of the triune God.

Those who put their faith in Jesus that day... and every day since... were enabled to put their faith in Jesus... by the Spirit of God.

Remember it is the joy of the Spirit of God to make Jesus known, just as it is the joy of Jesus to make the Father known.

What these scriptures make known is that the rescue of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam and Eve... is the work of the triune God – Father, Son and Spirit.

I want to point out three points of connection this truth makes to our lives today.

1. Francis Schaffer never tired of saying, God is there... and he is a personal being.

John Piper says, “People who don’t know Jesus, view God as an **impersonal force** in the universe, and will often say things like, “The universe drew us together” or “I hope the universe will guide me to make the best decision.”

The triune God is not the universe.

The triune God created all that is, including humanity.

He who is One who is Three... desires relationship with us.

Knowing that it is impossible for us to solve our sin problem, I AM... took on human flesh, lived a perfect life... and then offered himself as a sacrifice to atone for all our rebellion and sin.

Jesus is the truth and he is the life... and he is the only way home to God.

God is...

2. Because of God’s aseity, we can depend upon the triune God, the all-sufficient One who is able to rescue, able to protect, and able to keep.... those who trust in Him.

Jesus said, John 6:37,



What an incredible promise!

3. The triune God, Father, Son and Spirit ... I AM... are... our everything.

This was the testimony of the psalmist.



If you and I are in relationship with the great I AM, we lack nothing. He provides all that we mean. His grace is never insufficient... it is always enough.

This is who we remember as we come to the Table this morning. I AM... is the source of our strength every morning — and will be for all eternity.

Jesus used the same phrase “I AM” in seven declarations about Himself. In all seven, He combines I AM with tremendous metaphors which express His saving relationship toward the world.

In addition, Jesus, throughout the book of John makes the seven renowned “I am” statements:

He said, “I am:

the bread of life” ([John 6:35](#))

the Light of the world” ([John 8:12](#))

the door of the sheep” ([John 10:7](#))

the good Shepherd” ([John 10:11](#))

the [resurrection](#) and the life” ([John 11:25](#))

the Way, the Truth, and the Life” ([John 14:6](#))

the true vine ([John 15:1](#))

God had long ago revealed himself to Moses.

God commissioned Moses to rescue the Hebrews that they might worship him.

Humanity was created to be in relationship with God and to worship him.

The preceding conversation left no doubt – Jesus spoke of himself and the Father as being one.

He said,

“If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” John 8:19

Jesus told the crowd who listened to him,

With this name – I AM – what did God make known about himself to Moses.

His plans are not contingent upon any circumstances. He promises that He will be what He will be; that is, He will be the eternally constant God. He stands, ever-present and unchangeable, completely sufficient in Himself to do what He wills to do and to accomplish what He wills to accomplish.

When God identified Himself as I AM WHO I AM, He stated that, no matter when or where, He is there. It is similar to the New Testament expression in Revelation 1:8, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.’” This is true of Him for all time, but it would have been especially appropriate for a message in Moses’ day to a people in slavery and who could see no way out. I AM was promising to free them, and they could count on Him!

Moses and Aaron delivered the message to Pharaoh: “This is what

the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’” Pharaoh replied, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go” (Exodus 5:1–2).

Pharaoh stood in opposition to the LORD. Pharaoh was not willing to concede that there was a power higher than himself. He was not willing to yield his plans to the One who was all-powerful and all-sufficient. In essence, Pharaoh was saying “I am who I am, and therefore I will not yield to another.”

One day, Jesus, at the temple in Jerusalem taught a group of people, comprised of those who believed in him, and those who didn’t. When questioned as to who he was, Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.”

The book of Exodus reveals an encounter God had with Moses. The gospel of John reveals a dialogue Jesus had with the religious leaders of that day. The two incidents are separated by approximately 1500 years. But they are inseparable and reveal who the triune God is.

Moses had been a shepherd in the wilderness for 40 years. He had fled from Egypt because he had killed an Egyptian.

are two incidents that happened
God reveals himself to be a triune eternal being.

This is what he made known when he revealed to Moses his name:
“I AM WHO I AM.”

The triune God had no beginning, and he will have no end.

What God asked Moses to do was staggering.

He wanted Moses to go to Pharaoh, the leader of the world superpower of that day, and announce to him that he was to free the Hebrews from their bondage.

I AM WHO I AM wanted Moses to bring a nation of slaves into the land which God had long ago promised to Abraham.

Moses was stunned... and replied to God: “Who am I?”

This was God’s answer to him: “I will be with you.”

What God asked of Moses was far beyond Moses’ capability.

But it was something which “I AM WHO I AM” could do through Moses.

This Mighty God, Yahweh, 3:7, ‘saw the misery of his people in Egypt,’ he ‘heard their crying;’ and ‘was concerned about their suffering.’

Yahweh told Moses that he was the One who had watched over Abraham’s descendants all the time they had been in Egypt... and that the time for rescue had come.

Yahweh promised, 3:17, “I will bring them up out of their misery in Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey.”

Yahweh, who lives outside of time, who sees the past, the present and the future at the same time... told Moses that the king of Egypt would refuse his request.

Yahweh told Moses it will take a mighty hand to compel Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go.

But he promised... I will stretch out my hand... and strike the Egyptians with such great wonders that Pharaoh will be compelled to do as I have commanded him.

The Hebrews would not leave Egypt empty handed.

Yahweh assured Moses... they will leave with silver and gold and clothing, as payment for the centuries they had worked without pay.

Fast forward approximately 1500 years.

The scene takes place in the temple at Jerusalem.

A group of people are gathered around Jesus.

He said to them:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

The religious leaders who were there challenged Jesus saying,
“Your testimony is not valid.” John 8:13

Jesus answered them:

“I stand with the Father, who sent me.” John 8:16

Instead of asking ‘who’ the religious leaders asked:

“Where is your father?” John 8:19

Jesus replied,

“You do not know me or my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” John 8:19

They asked,

“Who are you?” John 8:25

Jesus replied,

“Just what I have been claiming all along...what I have heard from him I tell the world.” John 8:25-26

But they did not understand.

So Jesus said,

“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be...

The one who sent me is with me... I always do what pleases him.”

John 8:28-29

To those who put their faith in 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.” John 8:32

But we are Abraham’s descendants.

How can you say that we shall be set free? John 8:32

Jesus replied,

“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.... But if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:34, 36

They answered Jesus,

“Abraham is our father.” John 8:39