



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 1:1-5—Jesus, Deity, & the Word
From Sermon 1.15.23

Read *John 1:1-5*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With much needed prep work completed, it's now time to begin the trial of Jesus, based on John's Gospel. It is deep, but it is also rich and rewarding. The opening verses alone (John's opening statement) has fascinated theologians and church members since the day it was penned. It ascribes to Jesus—the Word made flesh—attributes that can only be used to describe the I AM.

1. Review the teaching about the Word from John's opening verses.

- In the Beginning was the Word = Eternality/Not Created
- The Word was with God = Distinction/Relationship/Union
- The Word was God = Divine/Fully God

2. By what two means has God revealed Himself to man? General Revelation & Special Revelation

- General Revelation: Creation/nature. See *Romans 1:19-20 & Psalm 19:1-3*
- Special Revelation: Scripture/the Bible. See *Hebrews 1:1-2*

2a. What does John tell us about both means? Being the Word of God, Jesus is both the Creator and the revealed Word. See *Revelation 19:11-13*

3. On Sunday, it was taught that every physical manifestation of God to man is Jesus. It was also shared that heated debates have ensued of two doctrinal words/events: Christophanies & Theophanies.

3a. What are Christophanies? Physical appearances of Christ in the Old Testament

3b. What are Theophanies? (proposed) Physical appearances of God the Father in any time.

3c. Why the debate & why do we teach there are no Theophanies—only Christophanies? The Scripture makes two things clear: 1) No one has seen God. God is Spirit. See *John 1:18 & 4:24*. 2) Multiple New Testament verses about Jesus being the I AM and the tangible appearances in human or other physical forms. See *John 8:58, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, & Genesis 32: 24-30*.

4. Read *John 10:29-33*. Discuss: It is a clear false doctrine, even sin, to claim God the Father and God the Son have different natures, predispositions, purposes, hearts, or minds. Examples: God the Father is Law & God the Son is Grace...that's how they balance. The God of the Old Testament is different than the God of the New Testament. The Father is Wrath and the Son is Love.

5. What does the profound statement mean: Jesus saves us from Jesus? Jesus is both and always holiness and grace, wrath and life. He will be something to everyone: Judge or Savior. It is Jesus who comes and executes judgment on the world. Placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, as revealed in Scripture, imparts His grace to you and removes His wrath, because He bore the wrath on your account.