

## “I AM” Statements in Revelation Part 2

### Rev. 2:23; 22:16

There are five “I AM” declarations in the Book of The Revelation. Last week we looked at three of them (Rev. 1:8; 1:17-18; 21:6): Jesus Christ declared “I am the Alpha and the Omega; the Beginning and the End; the First and the Last; the One who was, the One who is, and the One coming; the Almighty; the Living One.” The three passages gave six wonderful truths about Jesus being God, the God-man, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, and eternal. Tonight, we are going to look at two additional passages in the Book of The Revelation that will declare three more “I am” statements concerning Jesus Christ.

**First, Jesus declares “I am the One searching the reins (kidneys) and the hearts, and will repay each of you according to your deeds” (Rev.2:23b).**

- 1) The Context: The context of this “I AM” statement is the letter to the church at Thyatira. Initially, the Son of God commends this church in His omniscient knowledge for having “works” of love, service (ministry), faith, and patience (Rev. 2:18-19). A loving, growing, faithful body of believers commended by the Son of God, but after one verse of approval there are four verses of condemnation. Sadly, many in this church had been corrupted by teaching that encouraged participation in idol feasts and associated immorality. Led by a self-proclaimed prophetess named Jezebel, they were unrepentant; and Jesus warns them that without repentance, He would cast Jezebel into a bed of suffering (sickness), make her followers (committing adultery) experience great tribulation, and strike her children dead (2:20-23a).
- 2) It is at this point that the Son of God declares that His intention is that “all the churches” (not just Thyatira) will know (experientially) that “I am the One searching the reins (kidneys) and the hearts, and will repay each of you according to your deeds” (Rev. 2:23). The Greek word “reins” (Greek #3510) literally means kidneys and metaphorically means the innermost mind; the decision-making process; the seat of desires and passions. It is very similar to the Hebrew word #3629 meaning “reins (loins).” Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, is declaring Himself to be the Omniscient God as described in the Old Testament in multiple passages of Scripture (Psalms 7:9; 26:2; 73:21; Prov. 23:15-17; 24:12; Jer. 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; I Chron. 28:9).
- 3) The Triune God, who knows everything and from whom nothing is hidden, searches the minds and the hearts for hidden secret affections leading to evil practices for which He will repay each of them according to their deeds (Romans 8:27). God also uses His Word in this discerning process (Heb. 4:12-13). The Omniscient God looks deeply into our lives and body (even our hidden organs- kidneys and heart) discerning the thoughts and intents which reveal themselves as actions (deeds). Application: What is He discerning about you and me?

**Second**, two additional “I am” statements are given in the last chapter of the Bible, when Jesus declares **“I am the Root and the Offspring of David; the Bright Morning Star” (Rev. 22:16).**

1) “I am the Root and Offspring of David.”

- a) The word “root” (Greek #4491) means root literally or metaphorically; when used metaphorically it indicates cause, source, origin or descendant. Jesus Christ is declared to be a descendant of David from the very first verse of the New Testament (Matt. 1:1). The Davidic line of Jesus Christ is traced in Matt.1 and includes David’s father Jesse (Matt. 1:6). Jesus Christ is declared to be of the root of Jesse and David throughout Scripture (Isa. 11:1, 10; Rom. 15:12; Rev. 5:5).
- b) The word “offspring” (Greek #1085) means offspring, descendant, progeny, family, or kind. Jesus as an ancestor and descendant of David fulfills the prophecy concerning David’s family. Jesus is of the seed of David (Rom.1:3-4).

2) “I am the Bright, Morning Star.”

- a) The word “bright” (Greek #2986) means bright, shining, splendid, magnificent, and radiant. What a descriptor of Jesus Christ. He is all of that and more!
- b) The word “Morning” (Greek #3720) means morning, daybreak, at dawn; and is only used here and in Luke 24:22 at the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- c) The word “star” (Greek #792) means star and is used 24 times in the New Testament. It is used 4 times at Jesus’ birth (Matt. 2:2, 7, 9, 10). Just as Jesus’ arrival on earth (incarnation) as a baby was proclaimed by the star; even so, the bright morning star heralds the dawn of a new day.
- d) Peter speaks of “a light that shineth in a dark place, until day dawns, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Pet. 1:19; 2 Cor. 4:5-7; Prov. 4:18). Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and the day star that shines in our hearts as believers. He is the “morning star” given to overcoming believers in the churches (Rev. 2:28). The second coming of Jesus Christ precedes the 1000-year millennial reign of Jesus Christ followed by the new heavens and a new earth eternally with Jesus Christ. And He that testifies these things says: Surely, I come quickly, AMEN! Even so, come Lord Jesus (Rev. 22:20)!

3) Can anyone imagine two things more unlike than a root and a star? What a contrast between these two metaphors: The root is near, the star is far; the root is unseen (underground), the star is seen; the root is earthly, the star is heavenly; the root is local, the star is distant (universal); the root is small, the star is big; etc. Christ Jesus, the God-man, is seen clearly in both of these metaphors. Jesus, God incarnate, is the Lord of the universe who came as a baby of the Root and Offspring of David and the Bright, Morning Star. The first thing that should draw the attention of our eyes and heart each morning is Jesus, our Savior. He, who is greater than all, will return to destroy the darkness of this

world forever; and the Light of His glory will fill both the new heavens and the new earth. Also. just as the morning star appears before sunrise, so Jesus will come for the church (the rapture) before He returns (second coming) to restore Israel to Himself.

**Summary:** In studying the “I AM” statements of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, we first observed that all these statements were connected to God as the “I AM WHO I AM” (Ex. 3:14-15) and God as Yahweh/Jehovah/LORD of the Old Testament (His covenant name with Israel).

We then looked at the 12 times that “I am” is used in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). We discovered that the use of “I am” is not exclusive to God or Jesus Christ. We also discovered that Jesus did declare Himself as the “I AM” with four titles in the Synoptic Gospels. He declared that “I AM” the Christ (Messiah/Anointed One), The Son of the Blessed One (worthy of praise), the Son of man, and the Son of God (Mark 14:61-62; Luke 22:70).

Then, we saw that the Book of John (besides the 7 Great “I am” statements) reiterated and/or declared what the Synoptic Gospel revealed about the Great I AM: that Jesus is the Messiah (4:25-26), God the Son (8:23); the Messiah (8: 24); the Son of man (8:28): the Preexistent, Eternal God (8:58); the Omniscient Eternal God (13:19); and He is Jesus of Nazareth, the God-man (18:5, 6, 8).

Then, we looked in depth at each of the seven Great “I AM” statements in the Book of John. “I am” the Bread of Life (6:35, 41, 48, 51), the Light of the world (8:12; 9:5; 12:46), the Door (10:7, 9), the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14), the Resurrection and the Life (11:25-26), the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6), the True Vine (15:1, 5).

Truly, we have seen the GREAT I AM in His multifaceted magnificence! Hallelujah! What a Wonderful Savior!