

Published based on [The I Am's of Jesus](#)

The I Am's of Jesus



Following is the opening statement from Dr. Bob Utleby's commentary on the Gospel of John. It contains some great preaching ideas and outline information. Enjoy it and preach it!

A. Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus' birth, Mark begins with His baptism, but John begins before the creation.

B. John presents the full deity of Jesus of Nazareth from the first verse of the first chapter and repeats this emphasis throughout the Gospel. The Synoptic Gospels veil this truth until late in their presentations ("The Messianic Secret").

C. Apparently John develops his Gospel in light of the basic affirmations of the Synoptic Gospels. He attempts to supplement and interpret the life and teachings of Jesus in light of the needs of the early church (late first century).

D. John seems to structure his presentation of Jesus the Messiah around

1. seven miracles/signs and their interpretation

2. twenty-seven interviews and/or dialogues with individuals

3. certain worship and feast days

a. the Sabbath

b. the Passover (cf. chapters 5-6)

c. the Tabernacles (cf. chapters 7-10)

d. Hanukkah (cf. 10:22-39)

4. "I Am" statements

a. related to the divine name (YHWH)

1) I am He (4:26; 8:24,28; 13:19; 18:5-6)

2) before Abraham was I am (8:54-59)

b. with predicate nominatives

1) I am the bread of life (6:35, 41, 48, 51)

2) I am the light of the world (8:12)

3) I am the door of the sheepfold (10:7, 9)

4) I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14)

5) I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)

6) I am the way, the truth and the life (14:6)

7) I am the true vine (15:1, 5)

Source: (Dr. Bob Utley, www.freebiblecommentary.org)

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