

## The seven “I am” metaphors in the book of John.

the bread of life (6:35), **the light of the world (8:12)**, the door or gate (10:7), the good shepherd (10:11), the resurrection and the life (11:25), the way the truth and the life (14:6)

### Session 2: I am the **light of the world**. (Tuesday 24 September 2024)

I am: Name of God

*Elohim (El) / Yahweh*

**Elohim אֱלֹהִים (Ēlōah)** is plural because God is an everything. God would not have been understood as trinity when written, but trinitarian theology can be implied/inserted in the OT. God's plural can refer to other spiritual beings -lesser God's.

**El** often in biblical name endings meaning God. **Israel** means wrestles with God.

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(Exodus 3:14 NIV -God **reveals** his name)

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

ויאמר אלהים אל-משה אהיה אשר אהיה ויאמר כה תאמר לבני ישראל אהיה שלחני אליכם:

(Exodus 3: 14: Hebrew OT)

H1961 הָיָה *hâyâh haw-yaw'*

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Yahweh. The word not to be used in vain. The NAME of God, however, is a variation of 'I AM' (Ex 3), and is transliterated as YHWH (tetragrammaton). The name has been used for centuries, so much so that the Israelites don't know its actual pronunciation. Instead, they said **Adonai** ('lord'), which became Kurios (κύριος) in Greek, and capitalised LORD in most English versions. (Based on Bible study with EG)

In the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible, kurios (κύριος) is used to translate the name YHWH, or the Tetragrammaton, about 7,000 times. In the New Testament, kurios is used about 740 times, usually referring to Jesus. (Google AI)

### John 8: 1-10 – Context for today's verses?

Pharisees brought woman in adultery to be stoned under LAW. He asked those without sin to throw the first stone! He pointed the law back at them. The older (and wiser?) left first. Jesus told her to leave her life of sin.

*“The heading to this in the NIV has the statement “The earliest and most reliable manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have John 7v53-8v11”. This implies that many reject this as an authentic story of Jesus, I accept that this is probably true but we cannot discard it on these grounds. To me scripture is anything which draws us closer to understanding God & His will for us.*

***“What this story tells me is that God places love, mercy & forgiveness before law, judgement & punishment. It is in that assurance that I go to meet my Maker.” (Dad)***

## **John 8: 12-30 (I am the **Light of the world.**)**

(John 8:12) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**"

(John 8:13) The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."

(John 8:14) Jesus answered, "**Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.**"

(John 8:15) You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.

(John 8:16) But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

(John 8:17) In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.

(John 8:18) I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

(John 8:19) Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

(John 8:20) He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

(John 8:21) Once more Jesus said to them, "**I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.**"

(John 8:22) This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"

(John 8:23) But he continued, "**You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.**"

(John 8:24) I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

(John 8:25) "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied.

(John 8:26) "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

(John 8:27) They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.

(John 8:28) So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then **you will know that I am he** and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

(John 8:29) The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."

(John 8:30) Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

## Dualistic concepts -a coin needs both sides to exist. (Light and Dark)

(John 8:12 NIV) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in **darkness**, but will have the **light** of life."

Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ **φῶς** τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθοῦν εἰμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ **σκοτία**, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ **φῶς** τῆς ζωῆς.

### **φῶς** τοῦ κόσμου (phos) = Light of the word

G5457 (shine or make manifest -reveal)

σκοτία (skotia) =dark

G4753 (dimness, obscurity, mystery -hide)

### Other dualistic concepts:

*Insiders vs. world, Known vs. unknown, Day vs. night, Heavenly vs. earthly, Above vs. not above, Spirit vs. flesh, Sight vs. blindness, Insiders vs. world, (Jews vs Gentiles – anymore post Jesus? Cf Ephesians 3:1-13 (v9 parallel below)*

**“Light” in 232 matches from 202 verses in NIV BUT...**

**The word light is not always obvious in the translation! The meaning is translated.(G5461)**

MSC	ONE	NIV	NUK	NLT	RSV	NAS+	(none)	
9 My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along.	9 and of making all people see how God's secret plan is to be put into effect. God, who is the Creator of all things, kept his secret hidden through all the past ages,	9 God told me to make clear to everyone how the mystery came about. In times past it was kept hidden in the mind of God, who created all things.	9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.	9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.	9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;	9 and to enlighten all people as to what the plan of the mystery of the R4mysteryG3466 is which for agesG165 has been R2hiddenG613 in GodG2316, R3who createdG2936 allG3956 thingsG3956;		

καὶ **φωτίσαι** πάντας τίς ἡ οἰκονομία τοῦ μυστηρίου τοῦ ἀποκεκρυμμένου ἀπὸ τῶν αἰώνων ἐν τῷ Θεῷ, τῷ τα πάντα κτίσαντι δια Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

## Some key Light Verses

(Genesis 1:3-4 NIV) “And God said, “*Let there be light,*” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.”

(Psalms 119:105 NIV) “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

(John 1:4 NIV) In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

(John 1:9-10 NIV) “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.”

(1 John 1:5 NIV) *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”*

(Matthew 5:14-5 NIV) *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.*

(2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV) *“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.”*

(Philippians 2:15 NIV) *“so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sk.”*

(Ephesians 5:8-14 NIV) *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, Rise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.””*

## **Quotes:**

*“Jesus speaks from God and for God and as God... The light of Christ, is the brightness of God shining on the retina of the human soul.” (John Piper)*

*Christ is the Light of the world. God is light, and Christ is the image of the invisible God. One sun enlightens the whole world; so does one Christ, and there needs no more. (Matthew Henry Commentary)*

*‘In the Old the New is concealed, in the New the Old is revealed.’ (St Augustine)*

## **Application -where next from OT**

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. (Isaiah 58 7-11 NIV)

## **Links:**

<https://djchannon.me.uk/led-by-light/>

(Leadership -light with key link to I am the good shepherd)