

REASONS TO BELIEVE

PART V: The Claims of Christ

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. During His earthly ministry, Jesus made numerous claims about Himself that no other human being has ever made
- B. Many would say, “I can accept that Jesus was a great moral teacher, but I cannot accept His claim to be Messiah and God.” But this line of reasoning is absolutely absurd – He cannot be a great teacher if all that He taught and claimed is not true!
- C. As noted in previous studies, one of three things must be true about Christ in light of these bold, extravagant claims:
 - 1. Jesus was an insane, deluded lunatic completely out of touch with reality
 - 2. Jesus was a false Christ, false prophet and a liar deceiving the people
 - 3. Jesus was *EVERYTHING* He claimed to be – 100% of His claims must be true (if even one claim can be proven false, then *none* of His claims can be true!
 - 4. NOTE: Josh McDowell in *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* says He is either a **lunatic, liar** or **Lord!**
- D. Let us examine a few of the amazing claims Christ made concerning Himself...

II. CLAIMS FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

- A. John the Baptist’s question (**Mat. 11:2-10**): ²*When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples* ³*to ask Him, “Are you the One who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”* ⁴*Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.*** ⁶*Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me...”*

¹⁰*This is the one [John the Baptist] about whom it is written: “I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.”*

1. Jesus gave numerous proofs (Messianic prophecies fulfilled from the Old Testament such as Isa. 35:6) that He was the Messiah – His miracles, healings, etc.
2. He affirmed that John was indeed the precursor to the Messiah predicted in Mal. 3:1 and Isa. 40:3
3. Bottom line: His answer to John’s question, “Are you the One?” was undeniably “Yes, I am the Messiah.”

B. Lord of the Sabbath (Mat. 12:1-8): ¹*At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. ²When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.” ³He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. ⁵Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? ⁶I tell you that **One greater than the temple is here.** ⁷If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. ⁸For **the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.**”*

1. Jesus claimed to be **greater than the temple!**
2. He claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath – He has power over the very Law that the Pharisees so revered!

C. Greater than Jonah and Solomon (Mat. 12:39-42): ³⁹*He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now **One greater than Jonah is here.** ⁴²The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of*

*the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now **One greater than Solomon is here.***

1. Claimed to be greater than Jonah and Solomon!
 2. Predicted His resurrection after three days in the heart of the earth
- D. Jesus tells His disciples plainly that He is the **Christ, the Son of God (Mat. 16:13-20)**: ¹³*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”* ¹⁴*They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”* ¹⁵*“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”* ¹⁶*Simon Peter answered, “You are **the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”* ¹⁷*Jesus replied, “**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by My Father in heaven.**”* ¹⁸*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*** ¹⁹*I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**”* ²⁰*Then **He warned His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ.***
1. Jesus called Peter “blessed” for knowing that He was the Christ
 2. Jesus claimed that God had revealed to Peter that He was the Christ
 3. He claimed to have the keys to the kingdom of heaven
 4. He told them plainly in v.20 that He was the Christ
- E. Jesus predicted His crucifixion and resurrection to His disciples (**Mat. 20:17-19**): ¹⁷*Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside and said to them,* ¹⁸*“We are going up to Jerusalem, and the **Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death*** ¹⁹*and will turn Him over to the Gentiles to be **mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day He will be raised to life!**”*
- F. Jesus told the high priest that He was **Christ, the Son of God (Mat. 26:63-65)**: ⁶³*But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to Him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: **Tell***

us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴“**YES, it is as you say,**” Jesus replied. “**But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”
⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.”

- G. Claimed to have **all authority in heaven and earth** (**Mat. 28:18-20**): ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.**”
¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”
1. Jesus claimed to be omnipotent and omnipresent
 2. Disciples to obey everything Jesus had commanded them

III. CLAIMS FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

- A. Claimed to be the **Anointed One** of Isaiah 61 (**Luke 4:16-21**): ¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. ¹⁷The **scroll of the prophet Isaiah** was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: ¹⁸“**The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,**” ¹⁹**to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**”
²⁰Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him, ²¹and He began by saying to them, “**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**”
- B. **Authority to forgive sins** (**Luke 5:18-25**): ¹⁸Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “**Friend, your sins are forgiven.**” ²¹The

Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ²²*Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?”* ²³*Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’* ²⁴*But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...*” He said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ²⁵*Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.*

- C. Claimed that **His death would initiate the New Covenant** prophesied in Jer. 31:31 by Jeremiah (**Luke 22:15-20**): ¹⁵*And He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.* ¹⁶*For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”* ¹⁷*After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you.* ¹⁸*For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”* ¹⁹*And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”* ²⁰*In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.”*
- D. Assured the thief on the cross he would be **with Jesus in Paradise (Luke 23:32-34, 42-43)**: ³²*Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed.* ³³*When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left.* ³⁴*Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing...”* ⁴²*Then he (the criminal) said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.”* ⁴³*Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.”*
- E. Claimed to be the **Messiah spoken of by Moses and all the Prophets (Luke 24:25-27, 44-49)**: ²⁵*He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!* ²⁶*Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?”* ²⁷*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself...* ⁴⁴*He*

said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: **The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,** ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸**You are witnesses of these things.** ⁴⁹I am going to send you what My Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

IV. CLAIMS FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- A. Predicted His death and resurrection after three days
(**John 2:18-22**): ¹⁸Then the Jews demanded of Him, “What miraculous sign can You show us to prove your authority to do all this [clearing out the temple]?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.**” ²⁰The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and You are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹But **the temple He had spoken of was His body.** ²²After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.
- B. Claimed to be the **Son of Man who came from heaven**
(**John 3:13-15**): ¹³**No one has ever gone into heaven except the One who came from heaven—the Son of Man.** ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that **everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.**
1. “Son of Man” could be an allusion to Dan. 7:13-14
(NKJV): ¹³I was watching in the night visions, And behold, **One like the Son of Man,** Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴Then **to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,** That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

2. Just as the bronze snake Moses lifted up in the desert gave life to anyone who looked at it, so Jesus promises eternal life to anyone who “looks” to Him in faith
- C. Jesus **promised living water** welling up to eternal life (John 4:10-14): ¹⁰*Jesus answered her [Samaritan woman], “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.”* ¹¹*“Sir,” the woman said, “You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can You get this living water?”* ¹²***Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?*** ¹³*Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*
1. Jesus is greater than Jacob
 2. Jesus promised the “gift of God,” – living water – to all who would ask Him
- D. Jesus later told the woman plainly that He was the **Messiah (John 4:25-26)**: ²⁵*The woman said, “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”* ²⁶*Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am He.”*
- E. Jesus claimed to have the **power just like His Father to raise the dead (John 5:19-21)**: ¹⁹*Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”* ²⁰*For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. Yes, to your amazement He will show Him even greater things than these.* ²¹***For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it.”***
- F. Jesus said the Father had **entrusted Him with all judgment** and that He is **worthy of equal honor (John 5:22-30)**: ²²*Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,* ²³***that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does***

not honor the Father, who sent Him. ²⁴“I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the **dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.** ²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. ²⁷And He has given Him authority to judge because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me.”

- G. Jesus claimed that the **Father had sent Him** and testified concerning Him (**John 5:31-40**): ³¹If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not valid. ³²**There is another who testifies in My favor, and I know that His testimony about Me is valid.** ³³You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. ³⁵John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. ³⁶**I have testimony weightier than that of John.** For the very work that the Father has given Me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷And **the Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me.** You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, ³⁸nor does His word dwell in you, for you do not believe the One He sent. ³⁹You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. **These are the Scriptures that testify about Me,** ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to Me to have life.
1. Although John the Baptist came to bear witness to Christ (John 1:6-8), Jesus claimed to have the “weightier” testimony of God Himself
 2. He also claimed that the Scriptures testified about Him and that anyone who came to Him would have life
- H. Jesus comforted the disciples literally saying, **“I AM”** (**John 6:19-20**): ¹⁹When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on

the water; and they were terrified. ²⁰But He said to them, “**It is I; don't be afraid.**”

1. v.20 (AMP): *But Jesus said to them, It is I; be not afraid! [I AM; stop being frightened!] [Exod. 3:14.]*
2. An obvious claim to deity!
 - I. The **Father placed His seal of approval** on Jesus & Jesus claimed to be the **Bread of Life (John 6:27, 35, 40)**: *Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval...* ³⁵*Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty...**”* ⁴⁰*For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*
 - J. Jesus claimed to be the One who **would give the Holy Spirit** to all believers (**John 7:37-40**): ³⁷*On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.* ³⁸*Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”* ³⁹*By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.* ⁴⁰*On hearing His words, some of the people said, “**Surely this man is the Prophet.**”*
 1. Claimed to be the One spoken of in Scripture
 2. The people realized he was the great Prophet spoken of by Moses in Deut. 18:15
 - K. Jesus claimed to be 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.”
 - L. Jesus repeatedly claimed to be the **Son of God, the Messiah** sent from God (**John 8:18, 23-30**): ¹⁸*“I am one who testifies for Myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent Me.”* ²³*But He continued, “You are from below; **I am from above.** You are of this world; **I am not of this world.**”* ²⁴*I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am the One I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.**”*

²⁵“**Who are you?**” they asked. “**Just what I have been claiming all along,**” Jesus replied. ²⁶“I have much to say in judgment of you. But He who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from Him I tell the world.” ²⁷They did not understand that He was telling them about His Father. ²⁸So Jesus said, “**When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the One I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught Me.**” ²⁹The One who sent Me is with Me; He has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases Him.” ³⁰Even as He spoke, many put their faith in Him.

M. Jesus claimed to be **greater than Abraham – I AM (John 8:47-59)**: ⁴⁷He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” ⁴⁸The Jews answered Him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” ⁴⁹“I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor My Father and you dishonor Me.” ⁵⁰I am not seeking glory for Myself; but there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹I tell you the truth, **if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.**” ⁵²At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that You are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet You say that if anyone keeps Your word, he will never taste death.” ⁵³**Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do You think you are?**” ⁵⁴Jesus replied, “If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. **My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the One who glorifies Me.**” ⁵⁵Though you do not know Him, I know Him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but **I do know Him and keep His word.**” ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷“You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and You have seen Abraham!” ⁵⁸“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “**before Abraham was born, I am!**”” ⁵⁹At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

N. Jesus claimed to be the **Gate or Door (John 10:7-10)**: ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹**I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. He**

will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

- O. Jesus claimed to be the **Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18)**:
*¹¹**I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep... ¹⁴I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me— ¹⁷The reason my Father loves Me is that **I lay down My life—only to take it up again.** ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father.*
- P. The Jews clearly understood that **Jesus was claiming to be God (John 10:30-39)**: ³⁰**“I and the Father are one.”**
*³¹Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, ³²But Jesus said to them, **“I have shown you many great miracles from the Father.** For which of these do you stone Me?” ³³“We are not stoning You for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because **You, a mere man, claim to be God.**” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? ³⁵If He called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken— ³⁶what about **the One whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse Me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? ³⁷Do not believe Me unless I do what My Father does. ³⁸But if I do it, even though you do not believe Me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that **the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.**” ³⁹Again they tried to seize Him, but He escaped their grasp.***
- Q. Jesus claimed to be the **Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26)**: ²⁵Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”**
- R. Jesus claimed to be the **Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:1-6)**: ¹**“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me**

that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

- S. Jesus claimed that anyone who had seen Him had seen the Father (**John 14:7-11**): ⁷If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹Jesus answered: “Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don't you **believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me?** The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. ¹¹Believe Me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in Me;** or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.
- T. Jesus claimed that the Holy Spirit would be sent in Jesus’ name to remind believers of Jesus’ words and testify about Him (**John 14:26; 15:26**): *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me.*
- U. Jesus claimed to be the **True Vine (John 15:1-5)**: ¹**I am the true vine**, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. ⁵**I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.**
- V. Jesus claimed that the Holy Spirit was coming to glorify Him (**John 16:13-15**): ¹³But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you

what is yet to come. ¹⁴**He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.** ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.

W. Jesus made a number of “wild” claims in His high priestly prayer of **John 17**: ¹After Jesus said this, He looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. **Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You.** ²**For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him.** ³**Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus CHRIST, whom You have sent.** ⁴I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the **glory I had with You before the world began...** ⁸For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that **I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me...** ²¹that all of them may be one, **Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You.** May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. ²²I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as **We are one:** ²³I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as **You have loved Me.** ²⁴Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see **My glory, the glory You have given me because you loved Me before the creation of the world.** ²⁵Righteous Father, though the world does not know You, **I know You, and they know that You have sent Me.** ²⁶I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for Me may be in them and that **I Myself may be in them.**”

X. Jesus’ “**I AM**” declaration knocked His arresters to the ground (**John 18:3-6** - NKJV): ³Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?” ⁵They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “**I am [He].**” And Judas, who betrayed

Him, also stood with them. ⁶Now when He said to them, “I am [He],” they drew back and fell to the ground.

- Y. Jesus boldly told Pilate that He was a King (**John 18:33-37; 19:10-11**): ³³*Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked Him, “Are You the king of the Jews?” ³⁴“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about Me?” ³⁵“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was Your people and Your chief priests who handed You over to me. What is it You have done?” ³⁶Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is from another place.**” ³⁷“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “**You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me...**”*

¹⁰*“Do You refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don't You realize I have power either to free You or to crucify You?”*

¹¹*Jesus answered, “**You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.**”*

- Z. Summary of Jesus’ “I AM” statements in John:

1. Bread of Life (John 6:35)
2. Light of the World (John 8:12)
3. Gate or Door to Salvation (John 10:9)
4. Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
5. Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
6. Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
7. True Vine (John 15:1)
8. King (John 18:37)

V. CONCLUSION

There was nothing ambiguous about Jesus’ claims – the Jews of His day clearly understood He was claiming to be God! His birth, life, miracles, and ultimately His death and resurrection confirmed every one of His claims! Greater than Abraham, Moses, Jonah & Solomon – truly Jesus IS the Great I AM!