

Jesus' I AM Promises and Teachings
Advent-Christmas-New Year 2023
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023
"I AM the Good Shepherd."

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:11-16

I. Remember...

- I AM statements are in John's Gospel at least 7 times.
- John clearly states that Jesus is fully Creator God in John 1.
- I AM = YHWH = LORD God = LORD (Exodus 3 and throughout the OT)
- Creator Jesus speaks, declares and creates "I AM" Reality for all people. When Jesus says "I AM..." He speaks, declares and creates faith in the listener. (For us!)
(Remember: "God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light.")
- I AM statements so far:
 - I AM the Bread of Life; I AM the Light of the World;
 - I AM the Door; I AM the Resurrection and the Life

II. I AM the Good Shepherd

- Two ways to consider Jesus' promise and teaching. (For tonight)

1. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

- There are many shepherds but they are not perfect. Jesus does the shepherding work perfectly, for true life.
 - Perfect protection. Against all evil powers.
 - Perfect knowledge of His sheep. Individually.
 - Perfect care of body, mind, and spirit.
 - There are illnesses or problems, but Jesus knows how to care for us.
 - Take all concerns to Him.
- Jesus guides us through this life to true life that extends past death and evil.

2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

- People seek protection; personalized care; health of body, mind and spirit; and guidance to the "good life" from many places – BUT these are truly only available through Jesus.

- Who will protect against, enable us to withstand, true evil?
- Who can give true life that does not end?
- Who loves enough to lay down His life for wayward sheep?
- If we neglect listening to Jesus for things of this world, we are running away from the Good Shepherd.

- Jesus calls us to Himself to take care of us. This is why He was born.

We listen as the children speak and sing of the Birth of our Good Shepherd. He was born, taught, suffered, died and rose to take care His flock.

Nov 22, Thanksgiving Eve, "I AM the Bread of Life." (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

Dec 6, Wed. - Advent Midweek Service "I AM the Light of the World."
(John 8:12)

Dec 13, Wed. - Advent Midweek Service "I AM the Door of the Sheep."
(John 10:7,9)

Dec 20, Wed., Advent Midweek Service "I AM the Resurrection
and the Life." (John 11:25)

Dec 24, 7 pm Christmas Eve "I AM the Good Shepherd." (John 10:11, 14)

Dec 25, Monday - Christmas Day "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."
(John 14:6)

Dec 31, Sunday - New Year's Eve Day. "I AM the True Vine." (John 15:1, 5)

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