

Jesus' I AM Promises and Teachings for Advent-Christmas-New Year 2023

New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023 — "I AM the true Vine."

1 **"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.** 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

4 **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.** 5 **I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.** 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 **By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.** 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 **"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.** 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.** 17 **These things I command you, so that you will love one another.**

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; I AM the Good Shepherd; I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life

II. Jesus said, "I AM the true Vine."

- True Vine = genuine, actual, reality, (of _____)
 - Abide in me = cling, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand
(Opposite = leave, separate, not wait for, give up, cling for something else)
 - Jesus chose to attach us to Him. Pure _____
 - If not abiding in Jesus, then a person's own decision to separate self from God, and finally God will throw away and burn
 - Thus, True Life is to Remain in the True _____
 - Disciples of Jesus abide in their _____ and in all Jesus' _____
(John 8:31-32; Matthew 28:18-20)
- True fruit
 - Love _____ as He has loved us (agape)
 - When we are abiding in, and following Jesus's commands we are His _____ friends.
 - We believe Jesus is our Friend and we live in the _____ that Jesus has created for us.
 - Abiding in Jesus we can bring all concerns to our _____ in heaven.
- What will 2024 look like? Jesus sets our reality to abide in Him.

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