

John 8:24, 58, 18:5 Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - The Word "LORD" Substituted for Yahweh. Exodus 3:13-15

The divine name of God, YHWH, pronounced "Yahweh" and meaning "I AM," appears 6823 times in the Old Testament, and it was first revealed to Moses at Mount Sinia at the burning bush (Ex. 3:13-15). But at some point between the Old and New Testaments the Jews began to substitute the word Adonai, meaning "Lord," in place of the name Yahweh, because they thought the divine name too holy to speak for fear of violating the third commandment (Ex. 20:7). Modern English Bibles follow this tradition substituting the word LORD, either capitalized or italicized, in place of the name of God; and so, when the word LORD appears in our English Old Testament it is actually the name Yahweh. But even though God does not forbid speaking His name Yahweh, He does forbid taking His name in vain either in word or deed. Let us therefore consider today how we might respect and honor the name of the Lord. Read Psalm 86:12

☐ Tuesday - A Belief that is Necessary for Salvation. John 8:24

Belief in the deity of Jesus Christ is an essential truth of the Christian faith. Jesus declared, "Unless you believe that *I am*, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). We must believe that Jesus is the I AM (*Yahweh*), if we would hope to be saved. And so, remembering the Jewish substitution of the title "Lord" for the divine name "Yahweh" (See Monday's devotions above), we read, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as *Lord* (i. e. God) and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" (Rom. 10:9). Read John 20:19-29

☐ Wednesday - The Resurrection, Proof Jesus is the I AM. John 8:28

Recorded within the pages of Scripture are the historical accounts of those prophets and apostles who raised various persons from the dead by the power of God: Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:17-24); Elisha (2 Kgs. 4:20-37); Peter (Acts 9:36-41); and Paul (Acts 20:7-12). In addition, the Bible lists those people that Jesus raised from the dead: [1] Jairus' daughter (Mk. 5:35-43); [2] the widow of Nain's son (Lk. 7:11-16); [3] Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44); as well as [4] all of those who were raised from the dead when Jesus died (Mt 27:51-53). Yet Jesus distinguished Himself above the prophets and apostles in that He not only raised others from the dead, but He also raised Himself! Yes, the greatest proof of deity of Jesus Christ is His own resurrection. "Jesus said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man [crucifixion & resurrection], then you will know that I AM [Yahweh, God]'" (John 8:28). Read John 2:19-22, 10:17-18

☐ Thursday - Jesus Called Himself the I AM, Eternal God. John 8:54-59

"Jesus answered, 'Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.' So the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, *I am*.' Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him" (John 8:54-59). O how the sceptics and cults scramble to try to explain away Jesus' statements here, but the Jews knew that Jesus was calling Himself eternal God, the I AM, and were ready to stone Him for blasphemy. Yes, Jesus is the I AM, the One who eternally is, for "His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2). Read Hebrews 1:1-8

☐ Friday - The Power of Jesus' Divine Name, I AM. John 18:4-6

"Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, 'Whom do you seek?' They answered Him, 'Jesus the Nazarene.' He said to them, '*I am*.' ... So when He said to them, '*I am*,' they drew back and fell to the ground" (John 18:4-6). See here how Jesus' enemies are overcome by the power of His divine name. Someday "every knee will bow," even Christ's enemies, "and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is *Lord*," i.e. Yahweh, the I AM (Phil. 2:10-11). Read 1 Peter 3:15