

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)

In these seven words, 28 letters, we have without moving anything on the board just laid claim to three of the most powerful names of Jesus Christ:

- "I am"
- "The Resurrection"
- "The Life"

Not only are these names so profound, they also offer the element of unity as is noted in the **numerical value of three**. They are a part of a *divine plan* that could only fit into a *precise time*, to implement a **predetermined effect**, for a **predetermined people**.

Nowhere in the history of mankind, civilization, or the universe would these three names have had the impact than when they were spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ. Since then they have become endeared with the passing of time. Not only are they timeless names, but they house **timeless promises**.

THE “I AM”

The “**I Am**” of Jesus statement is a self-disclose title with a sacred history. It **signifies the eternity of God**. The Hebrew word is in the "imperfect" tense meaning **I was, I am, and I shall always be**. This title first given to Moses to support his course in Egypt became the foundation of his success. The title “**I Am**” **represents the eternal and mighty nature of God**. Jesus used this name on many different occasions, but **only once** did he prefix that name before his declaration of being the “Resurrection and the Life”, **indicating the divine power behind that statement**. He is God and he will make it good!

The "I Am" is “**the search engine**” that propels what it prefixes. It gives *life, energy, essence, and meaning*. It is the “*possibility to*”, and the “*reality and the presence of*” all the titles of **Jesus** prefixed by it:

1. I am come in my Father’s name. (John 5:43)
2. I am **the bread of life**. (John 6:35)
3. I am **the light of the world**. (John 8:12)
4. I am **the door**. (John 10:9)
5. I am **the good shepherd**. (John 10:11)
6. I am **the way, the truth, and the life**. (John 14:6)
7. I am **the true vine**. (John 15:1)
8. I am **the Living One**. (Rev. 1:18)

9. I am **Alpha and Omega**, the **beginning and the end, the first and the last**. (Rev. 22:13)

The "I am" was given by God to answer the question "**who?**" It became **God's business card**.

Who, where, when, what, why?

It served as both foundation and anchor for Moses success in the face of extreme opposition.

Knowing who God is essential for:

1. **Faith** (Hebrews 11)
2. **Fellowship**
3. **Fruitfulness**
4. **Finish** - Jesus was the Master in the use of the "I am". He was the "I am" yet the thing that he was, gave him the endurance to say "It Is Finished"
5. **Frame** (Phil. 2)

The question **WHY?** To give an expected end - abundant life!

"THE RESURRECTION" (John 11:25)

These words were spoken in the midst of a drama of human death and gloom. They were spoken in a situation of heartbreak and agony.

That little home of Bethany that had so often been a retreat and a haven of rest for the Master had now become a morgue of gloom and dismay. Lazarus had died. There was the deep grief of the sisters and friends, and the sad wailing of the mourners.

In this darkest of settings Jesus gives us one of His most radiant titles. Many consider this the climax of His "**I Am**" statements.

What precisely did Jesus mean by being "**The Resurrection**"? Resurrection has to do with the reconstruction of that which was the victim of death and destruction. It is the cycling of the pass. **This is Jesus supreme expression of his authority over life and death.** No one had ever made such a claim and no one ever publicly fulfilled such a claim, as did Jesus.

Four Resurrections

At least four times while on earth Jesus demonstrated his authority over death:

- Each of them experienced a Resurrection

- Each had a direct application to human life and the relationship produce through the process of seasons.
1. **The daughter of Jairus**, the maid or young child that had been snatched by death at a tender age (Matt. 9:23-26).
 - She represented the class of those **cared for by the household**.
 2. **The only son of the widow of Nain**. Jesus stops his funeral procession and commanded, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" (Luke 7:12-16)
 - He represented those with **the responsibility of the household**.
 3. **Lazarus whom Jesus loved**, was dead and entombed four days, processed with the foul odor of human death. Jesus called, "Lazarus, come out" and the dead men came forth from the tomb still bound in his grave clothes (John 11:43).
 - Lazarus represented **the authority figure in the household**.
 4. **Finally the mighty resurrection of Jesus**, which gave ultimate confirmation and **authority** to his claim, "I am the resurrection and the life."
 - Jesus, the center of all life - raised himself!
 - Jesus represented **the supreme authority over his own house, whose house we are!** (Hebrew 3:6).
 - **Being the Head of His own house**, includes every born again believer who holds fast the confidence (*in the promise of the resurrection*) and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

The day when Jesus was in the tomb; hearts were heavy. The depressed disciples on the Emmaus road *represented the dismay of all followers* at what seemed to be the defeat of Jesus Christ and His wonderful claims. Death had claimed Him as a victim and *snuffed out the hope* that had sprung from His radiant promises.

In the history of man, there was another momentous day that seemed gloomy with defeat. When the decisive battle of Waterloo was fought, the people of London anxiously awaited news of the outcome of battle. In those days messages were sent by means of semaphore signals. From the top of Winchester Cathedral the people saw and read the message, "*Wellington defeated*" and then a blanket of fog veiled the signalers. The people of London were in deep despair at the thought of their great general being defeated. **All seemed lost**. But later that day *the fog lifted* and again the message was being signaled. Again they read, "*Wellington defeated*", but this time there was more to the message. It read, "*Wellington defeated the enemy*". Gloom changed to glory, despair to delight, **tragedy had become triumph**.

So too when the fog had lifted following Calvary, the glorious message passed like wildfire, "**He is risen!**" **Defeat was changed into victory**. Jesus Christ became the great Victor over death instead of its victim. Jesus the Mighty Conqueror came and

cut the "***Gordian knot***" of death by the decisive thrust of His resurrection. ***Jesus sliced through it!!!***

- **Complicated problem:** a problem for which it is very difficult to find a solution.
- [Late 16th century. From the knot of *Gordius*, king of Gordium, that was to be loosened only by the future ruler of Asia: Alexander the Great sliced through it.]

"THE LIFE" (John 11:25; John 14:6)

"I am the Life" is the final title of this superb set of three related names given by Jesus in Bethany and the Upper Room. It is an astonishing statement. Any other person would have to say, "I am A life." **But Jesus Christ declared, "I am *the* Life".** Once again the definite article, "**the**" makes our Lord's statement echo an inspiring truth.

Through this name "**The life**" Jesus has covenanted to give **vitality, reality, movement, and purpose** to that which had become the victim of death and destruction. **Only Jesus could add the name "Life" to his portfolio, for he alone has life within himself.** He is the source of life with purpose. He rescues life from becoming idiotic. He redeems it from being merely existence. The Life He gives has to be spelled with a capital L. He gives qualitative dimension to life, making it supremely purposeful. "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*" is the proclamation on the life He gives (John 10:10).

In Him we are something more than a cosmic accident, an accidental gathering of atoms, a restless protoplasm, a pawn of the universe, the plaything of an unreadable fate, some enchanted dust, or an animated clod. **In Christ, we become sons of God!**

Why be resurrected without life? Life has meaning and purpose. Even eternal life has purpose. **Not just to live as long as God lives, but to facilitate a divine plan in the future that is beyond human expression.** It touches on:

- **No Mores!** Expressing itself in no more tears, night, pain, suffering, and death. Covering every department of existence, physical, emotional, spiritual, financial, throughout the Cosmo.
- **It unlocks eternity!**
- It liberates the soul from a **bad shortfall of temporary victories** by what seems to be another defeat.
- The Resurrection and the life **remove the see-sawing effect** to a blissful eternal **permanency** to those who know, love, and have accepted the one who alone could make that declaration. Jesus Christ who took the marvel of it all (*The Resurrection and the Life*) and he wears it as his own name.

Biblical Mechanics

Resurrection is best seen in the spring of the year, where all around us nature is teeming with new life. What was seemingly dead and dormant began to express itself with new life. My wife commented the other day as we drove from home, about the **daffodils and tulips** that beautify the many lawns of the neighborhood. She noted the fact, that once they are planted there would be no need of replanting. They would forge the bitter fall and winter seasons, and **with a vengeance express themselves** with beauty and fragrance at the coming of their season. (As the product of their season) (Ecc.3:1)

The great constant of the universe are the seasons (Genesis 1:14). In the Norah's Covenant, God said; "*While the earth remaining, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease*" (Genesis 8:22).

The purpose of this universal constant is to develop a balanced and mature product. The notion that time and seasons are needed to produce a glorious transformation. This seems to have been the mind-set of Martha and all her clan [us], "*I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection in the last day*" (John 11:24).

From the beginning of time we have watched the miracle of the changing seasons. But did we fully understand its total message? Has God been communicating a divine truth that is relative only to his chosen people for a particular time?

The day would come when no longer the "product" would have to wait for the seasons to develop its maturity, as was set forth in the creation.

The prophet Amos gives us a divine vision of Jesus Christ as the resurrection and the life (Amos 9:13-15). Amos prophecy declared that the time and seasons would miraculously over-lap! "*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the trader of grapes him that soweth speed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt...*"

This overlapping of time and seasons will bring all seasons equal, yielding a mature and balance product - *A blessed, prosperous and stable people!*

The four seasons would be embodied as a person, Jesus Christ producing a crop of people that are not volatile, but stable and blessed in a designed setting.

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

Was this the key to the last play of redemption?

- The grand finale!
- The "Selah" of life's song?

Was this the disguised weapons of the Ages?

- Was the name “I am, the Resurrection, and the life,” a secret weapon to be used upon the enemy of death, hell, and the grave, disguised in the mystery of season?
- Had Satan watched the drama of his own defeat since the beginning of time, but never realized that such beauty, magnificent, and power would be unleashed upon him to bring about his defeat?
- We too have watched in awe from our stage of time, with little or no value of association to the splendor and joy that would mock our future because of these three names.

When Jesus introduced **the revelation that he was the embodiment of all newness**, he established a new order of understanding, joy, and hope. What was once the expectation of the universal kingdom on plants and seasons, will now be the expectation, hope, and joy of his chosen people.

“I Am the resurrection and the life.”

