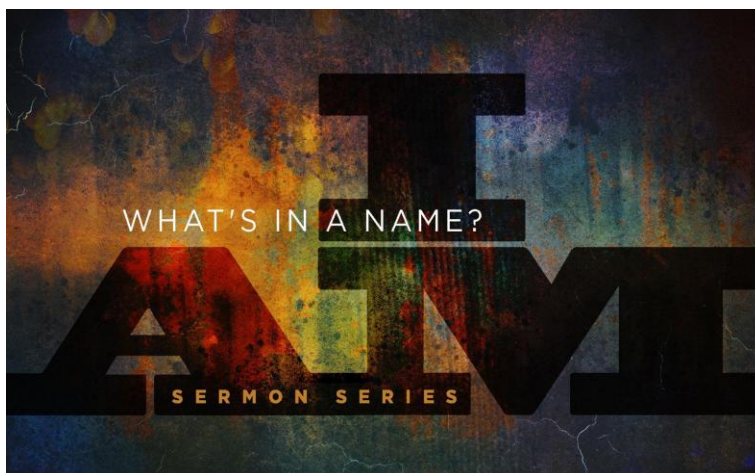




Today's Easter Message is the final in a series that has been a comprehensive look at the **"I AM"** (God is YHWH) statements of Christ in the New Testament, specifically in the Book of John. Together, these lessons have offered a multi-faceted view of Jesus, the ways he impacts everyday life as He IS: the **bread** of life (6:35); the **light** of the world (8:12); the **door** (10:7); the **good shepherd** (10:11); the **way, truth and life** (14:6), the true **vine** (15:1); and now the last of the 7 **"I AM"** statements of Christ...

"I AM THE RESURRECTION"

John 11:25-27

Lesson Introduction: Jesus spoke these words to Martha at the death of her brother Lazarus (a family along with their sister Mary that Jesus loved very much). No doubt many mourners and supporters had been coming to encourage the sisters with the fact that he "will rise again" meaning at the last before Judgment Day. But Jesus goes deeper than this theological truth when he says, "I AM the resurrection and the life." She responded in great faith but probably

not fully grasping the meaning of his words. Then, note what happens in verses 38-44. Truly, the Messiah's Resurrection is more than meets the eye.

1. A RESURRECTION THAT IS _____.

The Bible records at least nine times people were raised from the dead:

- 1) Elijah raised the son of the Zarephath widow (1 Kings 17:17-22)
- 2) Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:32-35)
- 3) A man was raised when his body touched the bones of Elisha (2 Kings 13:20-21)
- 4) Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 17:11-15)
- 5) Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:41-55)
- 6) Jesus raised Lazarus (John 11:38-44)
- 7) Many saints rose from the dead at the crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:50-53)
- 8) Peter raised Dorcas (Acts 9:36-41)
- 9) Eutychus was raised from the dead by Paul (Acts 20:9-10)

So, it's clearly established God has power over life and death. So, what is different about Jesus being raised from the dead as these others?

- He would not _____ again as the above ones did. His resurrection is eternal.
- He defeated _____ in his resurrection.
- He fulfilled God's Plan of _____ for all mankind.
- His resurrection confirms the two resurrections believers will experience: _____ and _____

2. "...AND I AM THE _____"

We serve a risen Savior. He not only lives but he is the source of life. (verse 26 again) (John 10:10; 14:6)
The greatest evidence of Jesus' claims is that Christ lives and bears fruit within every believer!

"Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone...