

The background features a gradient from red to blue with various circular and semi-circular patterns. Some circles have tick marks and numbers, resembling a scale or a clock face. The numbers visible include 40, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260. There are also dashed lines and arrows pointing in different directions.

I AM...

HOW JESUS' OWN METAPHORS
DECLARE HIS DEITY

INTRO

GOD'S NAME IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- “Almighty God” or *El Shaddai* – Used primarily in Genesis, e.g., Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11
 - Primary focus – Omnipotence
- “I AM” or YHWH/Yahweh – Beginning in Ex. 3:13-15
 - Primary focus – Everlasting
 - **LORD = *Jehovah***, a different tense of **I AM** (I am who I am; I will be what I will be)
 - **Lord** a different word (master), Ps. 110:1

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- “A rose by any other name would as sweet...”
- What names would mankind give ourselves?
- The names God used tell us much about His character
- As simple as “I AM WHO I AM” is, we cannot comprehend how He came to be, the extent of His limitless power (Is. 40:28), or His consistency (Mal. 3:6).



WHEN GOD SELECTIVELY REVEALED HIS NAME

- Gen. 17:1 – When making covenant with Abram
- Ex. 3:13-15 – When, upon being directed to lead the people, Moses asked His name.
 - See also Ex. 6:3
- At other times, God's angels/messengers would not give a name when asked – Gen. 32:28-29; Jdg. 13:17-18

I AM WHO I AM

- More impressive than “*cognito ergo sum*”
- *Ehyeh* is 1st person Hebrew grammar for *hayah* “to be” and is the same in past, present, and future tense.
- God is, was, and always will be. This name tells us all we need to know.
- The Israelites were so awed by His name they would not speak it – Ex. 20:7

SO WHO IS JESUS THEN?

Jn. 8

51 "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.'

53 "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?"

54 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

SO WHO IS JESUS THEN?

Jn. 8

55 "Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

SO WHO IS JESUS THEN?

I am (KJV): That our Lord by this expression asserted his divinity and eternal existence, as the great I AM, appears evident from the use of the present tense, instead of the past tense, from its being in answer to the Jews, who enquired whether he had seen Abraham, and from its being thus understood by the multitude, who were exasperated at it to such a degree that they took up stones to stone him. The ancient Jews not only believed that the Messiah was superior to and Lord of all the patriarchs, and even of angels, but that his celestial nature existed with God from whom it emanated, before the creation, and that the creation was effected by his ministry.

— *The Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge*

SO WHO IS JESUS THEN?

The absolute emphatic declaration "I am" (ego eimi, Gk.) is reminiscent of Ex. 3:14, where the words stand for the eternal person of Yahweh. Jesus asserts He existed even before Abraham "was" (i.e., "was born" or "came into existence"). His claim is inescapable: Jesus is God, the Yahweh of the O.T. In some sense this may be the climactic declaration of the Gospel.

— *Believer's Study Bible*

JESUS & I AM

Jn. 8

24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

25 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning."

26 "I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

27 They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.

28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."

JESUS & I AM

Lk. 22

67 “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will by no means believe.

68 “And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go.

69 “Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”

70 Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So He said to the, “You rightly say that I am.”

CONCLUSION

- In future lessons, we will consider what Jesus said about Himself through this lens of I AM.
- But today, simply consider who Jesus is and what He did for you.
- Rev. 22:12 – “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”