

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

YAHWEH SENT ME

John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, ‘I am . . . “

Throughout the Old Testament, the most frequent name for God is “Yahweh,” which is used over 5,000 times. This Hebrew name for God comes from God Himself. From the burning bush in the wilderness, when Moses asked by what name God desired to be called, He replied, “I am who I am.” (Exodus 3:14) Thereafter, when Moses began preaching to the Israelites, he explained to them, “He is” sent me, which literally in Hebrew means “Yahweh sent me.”

Five times in John’s Gospel, Jesus referred to Himself with this same name: “I Am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35,38), “I Am the Light of the world” (John 8:12), “I Am the Door” (John 10:7,9), “I Am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11), and “I Am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25-26) Jesus used the “I Am” name to lead the Jewish people to faith. He said at the time when He brought Lazarus back to life that He used this name in His prayer to Yahweh that the people “might believe that You [Yahweh] sent Me.” (John 11:42)

Today’s Bible verse from John 6:35 records the first of these “I Am’s.” He said to the people, “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35) and again “I Am the Living Bread” (John 6:51) and previously He referred to Himself as the “Bread that came down from heaven.” (John 6:4) Referring to Himself as “Bread” connects Him to the Old Testament where God provided manna to sustain the life of Israel during their 40-year desert wanderings. The difference between the Bread Jesus provides, He says, is the Bread He gives endures to eternal life whereas the manna only physically kept Israel alive. (see John 6:32-33, 48-51.)

Jesus is sent by God to give you eternal life. Just as food is necessary for your earthly life Jesus is necessary for your eternal life. This is what Jesus said to Martha at the time of her brother Lazareth’s death, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.” (John 11:25-26) Jesus says, “Yahweh sent me” to offer myself to you as the bread of life so you will never hunger again.

Prayer: Jesus, feed me the bread you give that I might live eternally. In Your holy name. Amen.

O living Bread from heaven, How well You feed Your guest!
The gifts that You have given Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart this gift possessing, With praises overflows.

My Lord, You here have led me To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven, That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit Bow down before Your throne.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.
(LSB 642)

Note: The words of this devotion were primarily taken from [The Lutheran Study Bible](#), pages 1784-1785)