

**YES, I AM THE CHRIST**  
BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN—Mark 14:53-65

**I. TWO POWERFUL CURRENTS FLOWING WITH AND AGAINST JESUS**

**A. GREAT POPULARITY**

Everywhere there were large crowds pressing around Him

- Mark 1—Capernaum—whole town gathered at Peter’s door
- Mark 2—Capernaum—no room left, even outside the door
- Mark 2—large crowd by the sea—at Levi’s call
- Mark 3—after healing hand—large crowd from Galilee followed
- Mark 3—after calling 12—entered a house—large crowd gathered
- Mark 4—teaching by lake—crowd so large He got into a boat
- Mark 5—before Jairus arrived—large crowd gathered by the lake
- Mark 6—feeding of 5000—He could not find seclusion for rest
- Mark 7—could not hide—even in Tyre—Syro-Phoenician woman
- Mark 8—feeding of 4000—another large, hungry crowd
- Mark 9—after Transfiguration—large crowd around other disciples
- Mark 10—to Judea—then across Jordan—again crowds of people
- Mark 10—leaving Jericho—a large crowd left with them
- Mark 11—triumphal entry
- Mark 12—in the Temple—the large crowd listened to Him with delight

**B. GREAT RESISTANCE**

1. Early Ministry

**Luke 4—In Nazareth**

Jesus spoke more favorably of Gentiles than the Jews  
Widow of Zarephath  
Naaman the Syrian leper  
The people drove Him out of town  
Wanted to **throw Him off the hill**

**John 5—in Jerusalem during ‘feast of the Jews’**

At the pool of Bethesda near the sheep gate  
On Sabbath Jesus healed a man ill 38 years  
When challenged about healing on Sabbath, Jesus said:  
“My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”  
The ‘Jews’ **wanted to kill Him** for  
Calling God His own Father  
And making Himself equal with God

**Mark 3—in Galilee (in Capernaum?)**

On Sabbath Jesus healed man with withered hand  
Pharisees plotted with Herodians to kill Jesus

2. Later Ministry

**John 7—in Jerusalem—at Feast of Tabernacles**

Because Jews in Judea **sought to kill** Jesus, Jesus stayed in Galilee  
Finally, He followed brothers to the Feast  
He spoke publicly in Temple—despite hostility of religious leaders

People were confused—they asked:  
Why don't the rulers seize Him?  
Is it because they know He is the Christ?  
Chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to **arrest** Him  
Confusion and division among Crowd  
Is He the Christ—or not?  
Some wanted to **seize** Him, but nobody did  
Officers failed to arrest Jesus—their reason:  
“Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”

### **John 8—in Jerusalem—at the Temple treasury**

During or after same Feast of Tabernacles  
After proclaiming “I Am the Light of the World”  
After His call to discipleship  
If you continue in My word, you are My disciples  
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free  
He challenged ‘Jews’ about their claim to be Abraham’s descendants  
You are not acting like true children of Abraham  
You are trying to kill Me because I have told you the truth  
Abraham would never have done this  
He rebuked ‘Jews’ for rejecting Him  
If God were your Father, you would love Me  
Because I have come forth from God the Father  
Instead you are obeying your real father—the devil!  
He proclaimed His divinity  
Before Abraham was born, I Am!  
They tried to **stone Him**—but Jesus escaped  
Stoning was for **blasphemy**

### **John 10—in Jerusalem—at Solomon’s porch in the Temple**

At the Feast of Dedication  
After proclaiming He was the Good Shepherd  
He said He had other sheep not of this fold  
He must bring them in and make them part of one flock  
After He spoke of His death and resurrection  
For this reason the Father loves Me:  
I lay down My life, that I may take it up again.  
The ‘Jews’ were divided about Him  
Some said He had a demon or was insane  
Others said a demon cannot open the eyes of the blind  
The ‘Jews’ made this point-blank demand  
**10:24**—“If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”  
Jesus’ response  
I already told you—look at My works—they testify of Me  
If you do not believe, it is because you are not my sheep  
My sheep hear My voice and follow Me  
I give my sheep eternal life  
My Father has given them to Me  
And nobody can snatch them from the Father’s hand  
I and the Father are one!!!!  
They tried to **stone Him**  
Not because of His good works  
But because of His **blasphemy**—calling Himself one with God

### **John 11—after raising Lazarus**

Chief priests and Pharisees **plotted to arrest** Jesus

### **Mark 11—after cleansing of Temple**

Chief priests and scribes **looked for a way to kill** Jesus  
Feared Jesus because the whole crowd was amazed at His teaching

### **Mark 12—after Parable of Tenants**

Sanhedrin **looked for a way to arrest** Him  
Because they knew He had spoken the parable against them

### **Mark 14—after Temple encounters—on Thursday before Passover**

Chief priests and scribes looked **for sly way to arrest and kill** Him  
Chief priests promised to give Judas **money to betray** Jesus

## **C. WHO IS THIS MAN?**

1. Popular healer, feeder, prophet, miracle-worker, and political messiah?
2. Blasphemer, law-breaker, demon possessed, political trouble-maker?
3. Three direct questions:
  - **Mk 4**—“Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him!”
  - **Mt 11**—John the Baptist—“Are you the Expected One?”
  - **Jn 10**—the Jews—“Tell us plainly—are you the Christ?”

4. Jesus answers clearly

### **Quote Mark 14:53-65—Jesus before High Priest and Sanhedrin**

#### a. Parallel passages

1. The High Priest’s question(s)
  - **Mt 26**—“Are you the Christ, the Son of God
  - **Lk 22**—asks the same two things—but in two parts
2. Jesus’ answer in Matthew and Luke
  - “You say so”
  - But this has the impact of saying—“Yes, it is so”

#### b. Jesus clearly asserts His divinity

- “I Am”—only in Mark—the Divine Name!
- All Synoptics—hearers said His answer was blasphemy

#### c. “I AM” claim in the Gospels—used rarely outside John

- This passage—and Luke’s parallel text (**Lk 22**)
- While Jesus walked on water—**Mk 6** and **Mt 14**
- **Lk 22**—I Am among you as one who serves—at Supper

#### d. “I AM” texts in John—explain Jesus’ three bold claims in Mark

- Who—He is God (and the Son of God)—the I AM
- What—He is the Son of Man (and the Christ)
- Where—the place of all power by God

## II. WHO IS THE CHRIST?

### A. IDENTITY WITH FATHER—JOHN 5 AND JOHN 8

1. Began in John 5—Jesus claimed equality with God the Father

- He called God His Father—making Himself equal with God
- This caused the ‘Jews’ to try to kill Him—for blasphemy
- Jesus said there were two witnesses—He and ‘another’
- Then Jesus gave *four* witnesses that His testimony was true
  - John the Baptist
  - His own works
  - The Father
  - Scripture

2. Validation of this claim by an “I AM” statement

- John 5 does not contain an “I AM” statement
- But His claim to be a divine ‘witness’ is validated by **John 8:18**

**Jn 8:18**—*I AM He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.*

3. Based on this testimony, He confirms His identity with the Father

**Jn 8:19**—*You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew me, you would know My Father also.*

### B. SAVIOR—SON OF MAN—AND GOD HIMSELF—JOHN 8

1. His call to believe in Him

**Jn 8:24**—*Unless you believe that I AM He, you will die in your sins.*

2. Confirmed by two more witnesses

- Sign of the cross
- Witness of Abraham

3. Sign of the cross—**Jn 8:28**—shows He is God’s Son

- They asked, “Who are you?”—**8:25**
- He spoke of the One who had sent Him
- When they did not understand He meant the Father, He said:

**8:28**—*When you lift up the Son of Man then you will know that I Am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*

4. Witness of Abraham—still in John 8

a. Reminder—dispute with Jews about Abraham being their ‘father’

b. Testimony about Abraham

**8:57**—*Your Father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*

c. First of two clear statements of divinity *before* trial at Sanhedrin

**8:58**—*Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I Am.*

### C. UNITY WITH THE FATHER—AS THE SON OF GOD—JOHN 10

1. This is not an “I AM” passage—but it means exactly the same thing

2. The second set of clear Jesus’ clear statements about His divinity

3. His unity with the Father

**10:30**—*I and the Father are One*

**10:38**—*The Father is in Me, and I in the Father*

4. His response to charges of blasphemy—as the Son of God

**10:36**—*Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’*

### D. PERSONAL CALL TO DISCIPLES—TO BELIEVE—AT SUPPER

**Jn 13:19**—*From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I Am He.*

### E. POWERFUL EFFECT OF THE DIVINE “I AM”

- In the Garden, twice He answered “I Am” (He—Jesus of Nazareth)
- **Jn 18:6**—first time—they drew back and fell to the ground!

## III. WHAT IS THE CHRIST?

### A. JESUS COMBINED “CHRIST” WITH “SON OF MAN”

1. Son of Man—in Daniel—divine coming King

**Dan 7:13-14**—*I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.*

2. Christ = anointed deliverer—had several connotations for Jews

- Prophet—promise of a prophet like Moses (**Dt 18**)
- Priest—unending priesthood of Melchizedek (**Gen 14**)
- King—Son of David (**II Sam 7 and 23**)

3. Jesus embodied all 3 offices—and proclaims them divine (Son of Man)

### B. WHAT IS THE FATHER LIKE?

1. The Father's nature was revealed in Christ—the Son of Man
2. Shown in “I AM” statements—in John
  - First revealed to Samaritan Woman—“**I Am He**” the Christ—**John 4**
  - **John 6**—the **Bread** of Life—the Living Bread
  - **John 8**—the **Light** of the World
  - **John 10**—the **Door**
  - **John 10**—the Good **Shepherd**
  - **John 11**—the **Resurrection** and the **Life**
  - **John 14**—the **Way** the **Truth** and the **Life**
  - **John 15**—the **Vine**—the True Vine
  - **Rev 1**—the **Alpha** and the **Omega**—the First and the Last
3. Also in **Luke 22**—the Servant—answering “Who is the greatest?”

*Lk 22:27—But **I Am** among you as the one who serves.*

#### IV. **WHERE IS THE CHRIST?**

##### A. AT THE SEAT OF POWER—HIGH AND MIGHTY

1. **Mark 14**—like the picture in **Daniel 7**
  - At the right hand of the Mighty One
  - Coming on the clouds of heaven
2. Same as in **Mark 13**—coming on clouds with great power and glory

##### B. THE INACCESSIBLE **I AM**

1. **John 7**—Feast of Tabernacles—while pursued by scribes/Pharisees
  - I will go to Him who sent Me
  - You will seek Me but not find Me
  - Where **I AM** (is)—you *cannot* come!!!
2. **John 8**—an infinite distance—an impossible gulf
  - Where I am going, you cannot come
  - **I AM** from above—**I AM** not of this world  
[Reiterated in **Jn 17**—**I AM** not of this world]
  - You are from below—you are of this world

##### C. SURPRISING SHIFT—HE CLOSED THE GAP

1. Invitation to follow Him—**John 12**

***Jn 12:26**—If any person serves Me, he must follow Me, and where **I Am** there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

2. Because the gulf has been bridged—by the **cross**

***Jn 12:32**—And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.*

#### **D. HIS PROMISE TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM**

**Jn 14:3-4**—*I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where **I Am** there you may be also.*

#### **E. SECURED BY HIS INTERCESSION—JESUS PRAYED FOR THIS**

**Jn 17:24**—*Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where **I Am**, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

#### **V. SUMMARY**

##### **MARK 14:62—BRINGS ALL THREE ASPECTS TOGETHER**

- **I AM**—WHO—God—One with the Father—Son of God
- **I AM**—WHAT—Son of Man—the Christ—reveals the Father
- **I AM**—WHERE—at the right hand of power—with the Father

I am going there—I am coming back—you can go there too

##### **FINAL WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

**Mt 28:20**—Lo, I Am with you always—even to the end of the age.