

Valued friends, we're back for another look at Jesus in the Gospel of John. Remember the context: Jesus states He's the Light of the world. A man blind from birth was given sight through Jesus. Jesus was doing the '**work of God**'. Today in **9:13-41**, we see the focus on the man who had been given sight (**:13-34**) and on Jesus (**:35-41**). "Why was this man born blind? Who sinned?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was **so that the works of God might be displayed in him (9:3)**."

Another passage came to my mind (besides **Ex. 3-4**) that has been very comforting and assuring to me personally as I've dealt with issues others and I are going through. That passage is **2 Cor. 4:3-11**. Let's look at it together. The apostle Paul shares what his message is even to perishing, blinded, unbelieving people: "**Christ Jesus is Lord!**" When we share this message with unbelievers, look what happens: "**Light shall shine out of darkness!**" **Read 4:6**. And then Paul goes on in **:7-11** to say, "We have this Treasure (whether Jesus and/or God's Word) in clay pots, so that (hina) the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves." This Treasure is within us to reveal God's power, no matter our circumstances. "We? We're afflicted in every way, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down. But we're not crushed, despairing, forsaken, or destroyed!" Why? Look at **:10-11**. It's so that (hina) the life of Jesus may be manifested in our bodies, our mortal flesh!!

Now let's continue our study of **John 9** which we looked at our last time together. **Read 9:13-17**. **:13 They brought to the Pharisees** [religious leaders, legalists with 1000s of rules] **the man who was formerly blind**. The case is referred to the proper authorities—those learned in the law of God. **:14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes**. Uh-oh! It was forbidden to work on the Jewish Sabbath; Jesus 'made clay' (**:6**). The OT law about the Sabbath is recorded in **Ex. 20:8-11, 23:12** and **Dt. 5:12-15**. The Sabbath was to be a day of refreshing and remembering. It had become a burden!

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The Pharisees were saying, "He can't be the promised Prophet of God (**Dt. 18:15,18**). 1st, He spit on the ground and made mud. 2nd, it was forbidden

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Jesus had ignored the restrictions and extra-biblical applications of the rabbis. Actually Jesus kept the Sabbath every day, resting in His Father (**Heb. 4**). These religious leaders had corrupted the Sabbath, turning it from a day of focusing on God as Creator and Deliverer to becoming a heavy burden. They didn't know what to do with a man who had been healed on the Sabbath, a man born blind who was now walking around seeing! Darkness has no way of explaining Light. **:17 So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."**

A Biblical prophet was someone like Jeremiah, Isaiah, Habakkuk, who brought God's message to people. It's interesting the man's progress in his thinking about Jesus: Jesus has gone from being a man (**:11**) to a prophet (**:17**). Soon he'll talk about Jesus being worthy of being followed (**:27**), to one from God (**:33**), to one who was worthy to be worshiped as Lord (**:38**)! God is meeting him where he is and taking him further toward the Light. He not only can see physically, but he's gradually beginning to see spiritually.

**Read :18-23. The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight.** In their prejudice, they did not learn from the 'sign' but tried to discredit the miracle. Perhaps if he hadn't been blind from birth, the miracle could be disputed? As we can see, the authorities considered the witness of the healed man worthless. "Perhaps the man is lying. Perhaps he never was blind. The parents should be able to give us information." **The Jews (2:18,20; 5:16,18; 6:41,52; 7:1,15,35; 8:22,48,52,57-59; 10:24,31,33; 19:38; 20:19)**—"The title John often used to denote those hostile to Jesus especially among the religious elite." So they brought these terrified parents before them **:19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"**

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**Read :24-34. :24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God; we (fully) know that this man is a sinner.”** Once again the man is interrogated, this time on oath: **Give glory to God.** “Major premise: Only people who are from God can open the eyes of those born blind. Minor Premise: Jesus is a sinner, therefore He is not from God. Conclusion: He can’t have opened the eyes of one born blind.” **We know** (emphatic in the Greek!!). The Pharisees’ own spiritual blindness was caused by their refusal to listen to anyone’s voice except their own.

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Yet Jesus was to do something even more amazing: grant him spiritual sight. The apostle Paul talks about this in **Acts 26:18**, “**...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.**” Remember **2 Cor. 4:4**, “**The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**” Jesus said in **Mt. 13:14-15a**, “**You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; for the heart of this people has become dull...**” The heart is the issue (**Mk. 7:21-23**). The only cure for spiritual blindness and dull hearts is saving faith in the Lord Jesus (**Jn. 8:12**).

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:35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**” Jesus met the man where he was, put out by the religious leaders, isolated from contact with fellow Israelites. Jesus heard and acted. The man was now ready to go further in his understanding of who Jesus is. Because the blind man had received and acted on what little truth he knew, God gave him more truth. After finding him (as we’ll learn in **chapter 10**: the Good Shepherd cares for His sheep), Jesus asked, “**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**” First, the man was questioned by his neighbors and then by the religious leaders, then basically abandoned by his frightened parents, and then excluded from the synagogue. Now Jesus finds him and asked His question.

For spiritual sight, it is necessary that he **believe in the Son of Man.** This must be the starting point for us also. The title ‘**Son of Man**’ (**1:51, 3:13, 6:27,62; 8:28**) is messianic and drawn from **Dan. 7:13-14**, which prophesies

a Coming One and His everlasting kingdom, **One like a Son of Man**.

**:36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord** [or perhaps ‘Sir’ in this context], **that I may believe in Him?”** He of course would not have recognized Jesus by ‘sight’.

**:37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.** You are looking at Him, and the One who is speaking to you is He.” The Lord presented Himself as the object of saving faith. Remember, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent (6:29).**

**:38 And he said “Lord, I believe.”** See **Jn. 1:12, 3:15-16,36; 5:24, 6:40,47, 20:31, Rom. 1:16, 10:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:16.** **And he worshiped Him,** the man they call Jesus **:11**, a prophet **:17**, from God **:33**, Son of Man **:35**, and lastly, Lord. (**Worship** only occurs elsewhere in John in **4:19-24 & 12:20.**) This was from a former blind man, excommunicated from organized religion. This man is worshiping the One whom he now fully recognizes for who/what He is.

**:39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that (hina) those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”** Jesus’ coming was not for the purpose of judgment (**3:17**), but it inevitably resulted in judgment, because some decided against Him. The last part of this verse is taken from **Is. 6:10, 42:19.**

If you know the facts about Jesus, the Light, but you will not follow up on them, you are spiritually blind and there is nothing else to offer you. “To reject Jesus’ peace is to receive His punishment; to reject His grace is to receive His justice; to reject His forgiveness is to receive His judgment.” Those who reject His gospel condemn themselves and subject themselves to judgment (**3:18,36**). Jesus turns the world upside down, by salvation and by judgment.

**:40-41 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things & said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” :41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.** The form of their question in the Greek expects a negative answer. They found it incredible that anyone would consider them spiritually blind. They considered themselves the “self-proclaimed experts in the Law and devout disciples of Moses” (**9:28**). If you acknowledge you are walking in darkness and seeking the Light, you can see. **As many as did accept Him, to them He gave the right to become God’s children (1:12).** But if you refuse who Jesus is and what He came to do, you’re blind and your sin remains! It all has to do with Him! Again, we too must start with belief and acceptance. Jesus indicts them for not acting according to their knowledge. We end this passage with religious rulers who were terribly, tragically blind, yet who thought they could see! If they would not admit their need, they would remain in their guilt. They were blind by choice, and therefore their guilt remained. The authorities have all along claimed to see. **We know** (3609) has been their repeated assertion (**:24,29**). It has caused them to refuse and reject the coming of the Light. If the Pharisees would confess they were spiritually blind (thereby admitting their need for Christ Jesus, the true Light), they would have no sin, because it would be forgiven (**Ps. 32:5, Prov. 28:13, 1 Jn. 1:9**). But at this time because of their unbelief, their sin remained. The real blindness: virtually everybody

else except the man whose physical vision was denied him from birth.

Solomon said, “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (**Prov. 26:12, 12:15, Is. 5:21**). They could not plead ignorance or lack of opportunity. In particular, the sin is that of unbelief. See **16:8-11**. They will be condemned to the horrifying darkness of life without Jesus (**Mt. 8:12, 22:13, 25:30**). Yet for spiritually blind people, there is a remedy, there is a way out: His name is Jesus.

A couple of truths stand out to me. (1) The more we know Jesus, the greater He becomes. That was certainly true with the formerly blind man. I find this true in my own life. As I get to know the Jesus of the Bible better, the bigger He gets! He stands alone. (2) Just speak the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for me.

What truths stand out to you from this passage? What have you learned?

In our next study, Jesus will proceed to interpret what He has done and why, and we have two more of Jesus’ seven claims of “I AM”: I AM the Door of the sheep pen, and, I AM the Good Shepherd. Isn’t this exciting! Joel

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**:36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord [or perhaps ‘Sir’ in this context], that I may believe in Him?”** He of course would not have recognized Jesus by ‘sight’.

**:37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.** You are looking at Him, and the One who is speaking to you is He.” The Lord presented Himself as the object of saving faith. Remember, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent (6:29).**

**:38 And he said “Lord, I believe.”** See **Jn. 1:12, 3:15-16,36; 5:24, 6:40,47, 20:31, Rom. 1:16, 10:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:16.** **And he worshiped Him,** the man they call Jesus **:11**, a prophet **:17**, from God **:33**, Son of Man **:35**, and lastly, Lord. (**Worship** only occurs elsewhere in John in **4:19-24 & 12:20**.) This was from a former blind man, excommunicated from organized religion. This man is worshiping the One whom he now fully recognizes for who/what He is.

**:39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that (hina) those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”** Jesus’ coming was not for the purpose of judgment (**3:17**), but it inevitably resulted in judgment, because some decided against Him. The last part of this verse is taken from **Is. 6:10, 42:19**.

If you know the facts about Jesus, the Light, but you will not follow up on them, you are spiritually blind and there is nothing else to offer you. “To reject Jesus’ peace is to receive His punishment; to reject His grace is to receive His justice; to reject His forgiveness is to receive His judgment.” Those who reject His gospel condemn themselves and subject themselves to judgment (**3:18,36**). Jesus turns the world upside down, by salvation and by judgment.

**:40-41 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things & said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” :41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.** The form of their question in the Greek expects a negative answer. They found it incredible that anyone would consider them spiritually blind. They considered themselves the “self-proclaimed experts in the Law and devout disciples of Moses” (**9:28**). If you acknowledge you are walking in darkness and seeking the Light, you can see. **As many as did accept Him, to them He gave the right to become God’s children (1:12)**. But if you refuse who Jesus is and what He came to do, you’re blind and your sin remains! It all has to do with Him! Again, we too must start with belief and acceptance. Jesus indicts them for not acting according to their knowledge. We end this passage with religious rulers who were terribly, tragically blind, yet who thought they could see! If they would not admit their need, they would remain in their guilt. They were blind by choice, and therefore their guilt remained. The authorities have all along claimed to see. **We know** (3609) has been their repeated assertion (**:24,29**). It has caused them to refuse and reject the coming of the Light. If the Pharisees would confess they were spiritually blind (thereby admitting their need for Christ Jesus, the true Light), they would have no sin, because it would be forgiven (**Ps. 32:5, Prov. 28:13, 1 Jn. 1:9**). But at this time because of their unbelief, their sin remained. The real blindness: virtually everybody

else except the man whose physical vision was denied him from birth.

Solomon said, “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (**Prov. 26:12, 12:15, Is. 5:21**). They could not plead ignorance or lack of opportunity. In particular, the sin is that of unbelief. See **16:8-11**. They will be condemned to the horrifying darkness of life without Jesus (**Mt. 8:12, 22:13, 25:30**). Yet for spiritually blind people, there is a remedy, there is a way out: His name is Jesus.

A couple of truths stand out to me. (1) The more we know Jesus, the greater He becomes. That was certainly true with the formerly blind man. I find this true in my own life. As I get to know the Jesus of the Bible better, the bigger He gets! He stands alone. (2) Just speak the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for me.

What truths stand out to you from this passage? What have you learned?

In our next study, Jesus will proceed to interpret what He has done and why, and we have two more of Jesus’ seven claims of “I AM”: I AM the Door of the sheep pen, and, I AM the Good Shepherd. Isn’t this exciting! Joel

Valued friends, we're back for another look at Jesus in the Gospel of John. Remember the context: Jesus states He's the Light of the world. A man blind from birth was given sight through Jesus. Jesus was doing the '**work of God**'. Today in **9:13-41**, we see the focus on the man who had been given sight (**:13-34**) and on Jesus (**:35-41**). "Why was this man born blind? Who sinned?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was **so that the works of God might be displayed in him (9:3).**"

Another passage came to my mind (besides **Ex. 3-4**) that has been very comforting and assuring to me personally as I've dealt with issues others and I are going through. That passage is **2 Cor. 4:3-11**. Let's look at it together. The apostle Paul shares what his message is even to perishing, blinded, unbelieving people: "**Christ Jesus is Lord!**" When we share this message with unbelievers, look what happens: "**Light shall shine out of darkness!**" **Read 4:6.** And then Paul goes on in **:7-11** to say, "We have this Treasure (whether Jesus and/or God's Word) in clay pots, so that (hina) the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves." This Treasure is within us to reveal God's power, no matter our circumstances. "We? We're afflicted in every way, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down. But we're not crushed, despairing, forsaken, or destroyed!" Why? Look at **:10-11**. It's so that (hina) the life of Jesus may be manifested in our bodies, our mortal flesh!!

Now let's continue our study of **John 9** which we looked at our last time together. **Read 9:13-17. :13 They brought to the Pharisees** [religious leaders, legalists with 1000s of rules] **the man who was formerly blind.** The case is referred to the proper authorities—those learned in the law of God. **:14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.** Uh-oh! It was forbidden to work on the Jewish Sabbath; Jesus 'made clay' (**:6**). The OT law about the Sabbath is recorded in **Ex. 20:8-11, 23:12** and **Dt. 5:12-15**. The Sabbath was to be a day of refreshing and remembering. It had become a burden!

**:15 Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes; and I washed, and I see."** The religious leaders weren't concerned about the man; they were concerned with their interpretations of the Law. The Jewish religious leaders had interpreted **Keep the Sabbath day holy** by stating: "Medical attention can be given only if a person's life is in danger. Any help on the Sabbath must be only to keep patients from getting worse, not to make them any better."

The man responded by simply giving them his story, the facts, just the facts! **:16-17 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.** Earlier the crowds were divided in opinion regarding Jesus (see **7:12,40-43**); here the authorities also became divided. As someone said, "Major premise—all people from God keep the Sabbath. Minor premise—Jesus does not keep the Sabbath. Conclusion—Jesus is not from God."

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Jesus had ignored the restrictions and extra-biblical applications of the rabbis. Actually Jesus kept the Sabbath every day, resting in His Father (**Heb. 4**). These religious leaders had corrupted the Sabbath, turning it from a day of focusing on God as Creator and Deliverer to becoming a heavy burden. They didn't know what to do with a man who had been healed on the Sabbath, a man born blind who was now walking around seeing! Darkness has no way of explaining Light. :17 **So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."**

A Biblical prophet was someone like Jeremiah, Isaiah, Habakkuk, who brought God's message to people. It's interesting the man's progress in his thinking about Jesus: Jesus has gone from being a man (:11) to a prophet (:17). Soon he'll talk about Jesus being worthy of being followed (:27), to one from God (:33), to one who was worthy to be worshiped as Lord (:38)! God is meeting him where he is and taking him further toward the Light. He not only can see physically, but he's gradually beginning to see spiritually.

**Read :18-23. The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight.** In their prejudice, they did not learn from the 'sign' but tried to discredit the miracle. Perhaps if he hadn't been blind from birth, the miracle could be disputed? As we can see, the authorities considered the witness of the healed man worthless. "Perhaps the man is lying. Perhaps he never was blind. The parents should be able to give us information." **The Jews (2:18,20; 5:16,18; 6:41,52; 7:1,15,35; 8:22,48,52,57-59; 10:24,31,33; 19:38; 20:19)**—"The title John often used to denote those hostile to Jesus especially among the religious elite." So they brought these terrified parents before them :19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"

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Yet Jesus was to do something even more amazing: grant him spiritual sight. The apostle Paul talks about this in **Acts 26:18**, **“...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”** Remember **2 Cor. 4:4**, **“The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”** Jesus said in **Mt. 13:14-15a**, **“You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; for the heart of this people has become dull....”** The heart is the issue (**Mk. 7:21-23**). The only cure for spiritual blindness and dull hearts is saving faith in the Lord Jesus (**Jn. 8:12**).

In **9:35-41**, Jesus once again comes into the picture, and notice, He found the man! **Read 9:35-41.** Jesus now brings ‘spiritual sight’ to the man.

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For spiritual sight, it is necessary that he **believe in the Son of Man**. This must be the starting point for us also. The title ‘**Son of Man**’ (**1:51, 3:13, 6:27,62; 8:28**) is messianic and drawn from **Dan. 7:13-14**, which prophesies

a Coming One and His everlasting kingdom, **One like a Son of Man**.

**:36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord [or perhaps ‘Sir’ in this context], that I may believe in Him?”** He of course would not have recognized Jesus by ‘sight’.

**:37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.** You are looking at Him, and the One who is speaking to you is He.” The Lord presented Himself as the object of saving faith. Remember, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent (6:29).**

**:38 And he said “Lord, I believe.”** See **Jn. 1:12, 3:15-16,36; 5:24, 6:40,47, 20:31, Rom. 1:16, 10:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:16.** And he worshiped Him, the man they call Jesus **:11**, a prophet **:17**, from God **:33**, Son of Man **:35**, and lastly, Lord. (**Worship** only occurs elsewhere in John in **4:19-24 & 12:20.**) This was from a former blind man, excommunicated from organized religion. This man is worshiping the One whom he now fully recognizes for who/what He is.

**:39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that (hina) those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”** Jesus’ coming was not for the purpose of judgment (**3:17**), but it inevitably resulted in judgment, because some decided against Him. The last part of this verse is taken from **Is. 6:10, 42:19.**

If you know the facts about Jesus, the Light, but you will not follow up on them, you are spiritually blind and there is nothing else to offer you. “To reject Jesus’ peace is to receive His punishment; to reject His grace is to receive His justice; to reject His forgiveness is to receive His judgment.” Those who reject His gospel condemn themselves and subject themselves to judgment (**3:18,36**). Jesus turns the world upside down, by salvation and by judgment.

**:40-41 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things & said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” :41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.** The form of their question in the Greek expects a negative answer. They found it incredible that anyone would consider them spiritually blind. They considered themselves the “self-proclaimed experts in the Law and devout disciples of Moses” (**9:28**). If you acknowledge you are walking in darkness and seeking the Light, you can see. **As many as did accept Him, to them He gave the right to become God’s children (1:12).** But if you refuse who Jesus is and what He came to do, you’re blind and your sin remains! It all has to do with Him! Again, we too must start with belief and acceptance. Jesus indicts them for not acting according to their knowledge. We end this passage with religious rulers who were terribly, tragically blind, yet who thought they could see! If they would not admit their need, they would remain in their guilt. They were blind by choice, and therefore their guilt remained. The authorities have all along claimed to see. **We know** (3609) has been their repeated assertion (**:24,29**). It has caused them to refuse and reject the coming of the Light. If the Pharisees would confess they were spiritually blind (thereby admitting their need for Christ Jesus, the true Light), they would have no sin, because it would be forgiven (**Ps. 32:5, Prov. 28:13, 1 Jn. 1:9**). But at this time because of their unbelief, their sin remained. The real blindness: virtually everybody

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else except the man whose physical vision was denied him from birth.

Solomon said, “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (**Prov. 26:12, 12:15, Is. 5:21**). They could not plead ignorance or lack of opportunity. In particular, the sin is that of unbelief. See **16:8-11**. They will be condemned to the horrifying darkness of life without Jesus (**Mt. 8:12, 22:13, 25:30**). Yet for spiritually blind people, there is a remedy, there is a way out: His name is Jesus.

A couple of truths stand out to me. (1) The more we know Jesus, the greater He becomes. That was certainly true with the formerly blind man. I find this true in my own life. As I get to know the Jesus of the Bible better, the bigger He gets! He stands alone. (2) Just speak the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for me.

What truths stand out to you from this passage? What have you learned?

In our next study, Jesus will proceed to interpret what He has done and why, and we have two more of Jesus’ seven claims of “I AM”: I AM the Door of the sheep pen, and, I AM the Good Shepherd. Isn’t this exciting! Joel

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