

THE MEANING OF JESUS FOR THESE TIMES:
AN EXAMINATION OF THE I AM STATEMENTS
I AM THE DOOR/GATE
(JESUS AS TRUTH AND ACCESS)
JOHN 10: 1-9 KJV/NRSV

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The Lord Jesus as Truth (vs. 1)

- False messiahs before and after Christ/The devil as deceiver
- Claims about himself--friend/foe
- Claims about what he offers---life and protection/death and vulnerability

Jesus and Access to Protection

- Two kinds of Sheepfolds
 - Communal (More than one flock)
 - Importance of community and learning to share/Perils of perceived ownership
 - Single Sheepfold
 - Shepherd as door or gate
 - High price of leadership
 - Alertness when followers are asleep
 - Caring enough to be inconvenienced
 - Service without always being acknowledged
 - (Sheep don't know how to say, "Thank you")

Jesus as Truth Needs No Deceit, Tricks, Gimmicks and Wild Promises (vs. 2)

The Shepherd's Call (vss. 3-5)

- Gatekeeper: The Lord knows the real from a show; substance from noise
- Sheep know the voice that they have been following all their lives, who has always lead them to green pastures and running water
- What about we intelligent humans?

Jesus as THE Door (vss. 6-9)

- Not a Revolving Door (Truth doesn't change with political, social or economic climate or individual personality or preference)
- Not a Prison Door (He does come to limit joy but to give us real, eternal joy)
- Not an Automatic Door (Revelation 3: 20)
- Not a Closet Door Where We Hide Stuff (I John 9-10)
 - Confess not blame God or nature (We believe in a new nature II Corinthians 5: 16-17)
 - Confess not blame environment
 - Confess not blame others
 - Confess not pretend that we have nothing to confess
- Not a Basement Door that leads down (Judas and betrayal)

Jesus as Door leads to

- Growth through grief
- Vision through vicissitudes
- Crowns through crosses
- Eternity through enmity