

Christian Apologetics (06)
[I Am The Door of the Sheepfold]

The word apologetics is derived from the Greek word, apologia. Apologia refers to a speech made in defense or a verbal response.

“Christian apologetics is a field of Christian theology that presents a rational basis for the Christian faith and defends the faith against objections, and exposes the perceived flaws of other world views.” (Wikipedia)

All of the lessons in the series entitled, Christian apologetics, will be taken from the Gospel of John.

Today will study the seventh outrageous **I AM** claim made by Jesus in the Gospel of John:

The Son of Man	The Door of Sheepfold
The Messiah	
The Bread of Life	
The Light of the world	

Our lesson text comes from a section in the Gospel of John known by five discourses given by Jesus in the Jerusalem ministry (Jn.7:14-10:39).

These five discourses took place between the Feast of Tabernacle [Jewish 7th month / Oct.] (Jn.7:2, 14, and 37) and the Feast of Dedication [Jewish 9th month / Dec] (Jn.10:22). April is the first month of the Jewish year. Our lesson occurs between these two Jewish national holidays.

- Tabernacle Feast Discourse (Jn.7:14-53, 2)
- Temple Discourse (Jn.8:1-59)
- Blind man Healing Discourse (Jn.9:1-41)
- Sheep gate Discourse (Jn.10:1-21)
- Dedication Feast Discourse (Jn.10:22-39) [Hanukkah]

This lesson will study five aspects of “I AM the Door of the Sheepfold.”

1. The Sheep gate discourse contains two “I AM” messages. We will study both of them.

- Jn.10:1-10 “I AM the Door of the Sheepfold.” (Jn.10/3/10)
- Jn.10:11-21 “I AM the Good Shepherd.” (Jn.10/10/10)

2. There are two double Amen (truly, truly) doctrinal sections in the “I AM the Door of the Sheepfold”

Section 1 (Jn.10:1-6)

“Truly truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and robber.” (Jn.10:1)

Section 2 (Jn.10:7-10)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.” (Jn.10:7)

3. John introduced a unique teaching technique in our lesson text called paroimia.

(Jn.10:6) “This figure of speech (paroimia) Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.”

The paroimia figure of speech is how Jesus taught in the Sheep Gate Discourse of Jn.10:1-21. The King James and Amplified translations interpret paroimia as 'parable', the Greek interlinear Bible as an 'allegory' and the NIV and NAS as 'figure of speech'.

Paroimia is also used in Jn.16:25, 29 and 2 Pet.2:22. Paroimia consist of the preposition para [beside or alongside] and oimia [way]. The idea of paroimia is to place one thing you understand alongside another thing you do not understand.

It was a unique figure of speech used by Jesus and later by Peter.

- Jesus added a double Amen in Jn.10:1-21 and a single Amen in Jn.16:19-29 / 20.
- Peter added Proverb 26:11 with it in 2 Pet.2:22.

4. In this paroimia figure of speech, Jesus used a metaphor of sheepfold door to teach a lesson on salvation and eternal life (Jn.10:7-10).

Jesus Christ declared that He was the DOOR (Jn.10:7, 9).

Only the true shepherd enters though the door of salvation and His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (Jn.10:1-6).

- There are enemies to this doctrinal principle (Jn.10:1, 5/ thieves and robbers and strangers).

This true shepherd is the only door of salvation through which His sheep enter into the safety of eternal life and leave with that eternal life for abundant green pasture.

- There are also enemies to this doctrinal principle (Jn.10:8, 10) [Steal, kill, destroy].

5. As the only door of salvation (sozo), Jesus Christ is the only source of eternal life (Zoe) and more abundant life. (perissos) [superfluous / more than sufficient] (Jn.10:7-10).

An example of the abundant life is the healed blind man of Jn.9 – “Once I was blind, and now I see.” (Jn.9:25) (Jn.9:1) [Born blind]

There are two sides to the ONE DOOR of salvation.

Outside of the door is for entering into salvation and eternal life by Jesus Christ.

- **Phase I Salvation** (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4).

Inside of the door is for leaving for the green pasture of abundant eternal life in time.

- **Phase II The Christian in time (CWL)** (Ps.23:1-6)
- **Phase III The Believer in Eternity** (2 Cor.5:6-8).

The enemies don't enter the DOOR but try to find another way to get to the sheep (Jn.10:1). The enemies don't have the sheep's best interest in mind (Jn.10:8, 10).

The sheep will know the true shepherd's voice and follow Him (Jn.10:3-4). The sheep will not follow the voice of the enemy over the voice of their Shepherd (Jn.10:5, 8) [Jesus verses apostate Pharisees].

When this point was made clear to the religious Jews, they “picked up stones to stone Him.” (Jn.10:24-31). WHY? “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.” (Jn.10:26)

POINT: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” (Jn.10:27-30)