

Sermon Series: “Jesus’ Great ‘I Am’ Statements”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—4/18/2004

Title: “The Root, the Off-spring, the Star”

Text: Revelation 22: 16

Intro.: *Ills.: Something lost in the translation*

Theme: Rooted and given identity in Jesus gives us reason to have an unquenchable hope for the future.

The purpose of Jesus’ Great ‘I Am’ statements

- John exclusively captures this theology of Jesus in his metaphoric teaching style
 - the Gate, the Root, the Morningstar, the Offspring, the Bread of Life, the Water of Life, the Good Shepherd, the Way–Truth–Life, the Vine, the Light, the Resurrection and the Life
 - Purpose of the metaphors/parables is to give an “**earthly hook to a heavenly meaning**”
- Notice the *definitive article (the)* — Jesus is not one of many courses on the religious buffet table
 - *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim. 2:5*
- Jesus purpose was to foster an unshakeable faith in him as the Son of God who came to save the world
 - *These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31*

Understanding the metaphors of the Root, the Off-Spring, and the Morning-star

- **Print and read Revelation 22: 16**
- **The Root** – the source that pumps life back into us
 1. A reference to Isaiah and a time when hope for even a remnant of believers was waning
 1. *“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.” Isaiah 11: 1*
 2. **Ills.: the never-say-die Bradford Pear stump in my front yard**
 2. When you despair life in the middle of wasteland of sin, Jesus says watch what I can do
 1. The stranglehold of sin’s tentacles controlling your life, relationship, career because of past/ongoing bad choices
 2. The deadness of sin in a relationship with your spouse or child which seems unable to be resuscitated
 3. The life does not have to come from you and me but from being rooted in Jesus
 1. That begins with Him getting us to die to ourselves (ego) so that new life can push through
 2. Letting go of the outcome and the glory of our lives so that his life and love flow thru us
 3. *So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power. . .that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians. 3:17-19*
- **The Offspring** – the promised descendant and the image of new birth
 1. Jesus was the One for whom believers waited from the time of Adam and Eve through Abraham and David
 1. *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15*
 2. *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his offspring. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3:16*
 3. *God promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 1:2-4*
 4. Jesus is not some coincidental figure of history but is the God/man Savior and answer to our most pressing need
- 2. Jesus is the “firstborn of the dead” to rise and gives us a hope to live by
 1. *He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead. Col. 1:18*
 2. As he fulfilled the hope for the O.T. believers now he takes on that role as a precursor to our resurrection hope

- **The Morning Star** — always a symbol of hope in the darkest moment of the night
- 3. **Ills.: Morning Star and its metaphor meaning**
- 4. Are you standing in the midst of the longest “*nights*” of your life?—don’t give up, in Jesus dawn is just ahead
 1. *And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19*
- 5. When world’s decay/depravity discourages—don’t give up because your hope/life in Christ which cannot be touch
 1. *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col. 3:2-4*

Something Lost in the translation

Lee Strobel gives this example of something getting "lost in translation:" I don't know if you've seen the new machines they've got—you can do this on the Internet—that will translate English into whatever language you want. Type in a phrase and push a button, and it will translate it into French or Spanish or German or whatever. I've always been curious: How do you know the translation is good? A guy had a similar question and did something fun. He took the song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," typed it into the computer, and translated it into German. Then he translated it back into English to see if anything got lost in the translation. You know the song:

Take me out to the ballgame. Take me out to the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and Crackerjack. I don't care if I ever get back.

Let me root, root, root for the home team. If they don't win, it's a shame. For it's one, two, three strikes you're out at the old ballgame.

He translated it into German and then back into English. Well, something got lost in the translation. It sounds a little militant, like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Execute me to the ball play. Execute me with the masses. Buy me certain groundnuts and crackerstackfusig. I'm not interested if I never receive back.

Let me root, root, root for the main team. If they do not win, it is dishonor. For there are one, two, three impacts on you at the old ball play.

Something got lost in the translation. The same is true about Jesus. Something through the centuries gets lost a bit. I don't mean the translation of the New Testament text; I'm talking about the way people perceive Jesus. Often Jesus ends up a caricature of who he really is. **Citation: Lee Strobel, *Meet the Jesus I Know*, (Preaching Today Audio No. 211)**

Morning Star and Its Metaphor Meaning

Morningstar and its meaning. In order to understand what is meant by 'Morningstar' we best board a ship and go far from the coast so that light pollution does not hamper us. We call a planet 'Morningstar' when it emerges over the horizon before the sun rises. The planet Venus is part of the year Morningstar: depending on the angle with the Sun, Venus is either Morningstar or Eveningstar for us. (Of course Venus is not a star at all but a planet: in ancient times people thought Venus was a star, hence the name.)

The Morningstar and the adjustment of the compass. Navigators can calculate the exact time of the day when Venus should rise above the horizon, and also in what direction they should look to see Venus. That is very nice, because then the ship's compass can be compared and adjusted, so that the ship can sail a true and correct course, so that it will reach the destination.

Rev. 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." [NIV]