



Photo: Our Daily Bread

## "I AM"

*God said to Moses, "I am who I am."*

Exodus 3:14

### READ Exodus 3:11-15

Jack, a professor of philosophy and literature, had a brilliant mind. He'd declared himself an atheist at the age of fifteen and in adulthood adamantly defended his "atheistic faith." Christian friends tried to persuade him. As Jack put it, "Everyone and everything had joined the other side." But the Bible, he had to admit, was different from other literature and myths. About the Gospels he wrote: "If ever a myth had become fact, had been incarnated, it would be just like this."

One Bible passage became most influential to Jack—Exodus 3. God was calling Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" (v. 11). God responded, "I am who I am" (v. 14). This passage is a complex play on words and names but reflects God's eternal presence from the beginning. Interestingly, later Jesus echoed the same when he said, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58).

Jack, better known as C. S. Lewis, was deeply persuaded by this passage. This was all that the one true God should need to say—simply that He is the "I am." In a life-changing moment, Lewis "gave in, and admitted God was God." This was the beginning of a journey for Lewis toward accepting Jesus.

Perhaps we struggle with belief, as Lewis did, or maybe with a lukewarm faith. We might ask ourselves if God is truly the "I am" in our lives.

By **Kenneth Petersen**

### PRAY & REFLECT

**Dear God, I come to You in awe of who You are. You are the "I am" in my life, and there is no other. Amen**

What does it mean to you to hear God say, "I am"? How might it influence your days ahead?

### SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

God's name is more than just a way to identify Him. It's also a revelation of His person and character. When Moses encountered Him in the burning bush, God identified Himself as "I am who I am" or the "I am" (Exodus 3:14). Scholars say the Hebrew can also be rendered as "I will be what I will be." One of the amazing realities contained in this title is that God is beyond time. Even more, He's completely unaffected by it - though in His mercy He chooses to work within time. This reality is reaffirmed in the New Testament, where we read, "I am the Alpha and the Omega . . . who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8). In the person of Jesus, our timeless God stepped into time to give us an eternity unbounded by time. – By **Bill Crowder**

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