

The connection between the great I AMs of Jesus and being dead in trespasses and sins.

But perhaps the most instructive indicators of what being 'dead in transgressions and sins' means are the promises Jesus Christ made based on his I AM claims ... for most of these claims have a direct association with life. Consider:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty' [John 6:35]. Jesus promised to those who come to him constant sustenance. This claim of Jesus indicates that apart from him there is only spiritual starvation and spiritual death. **Thus 'death' is the absence of all that is necessary to sustain spiritual life.**

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' [John 8:12]. Here the opposite of life is darkness: **spiritual death is a state of spiritual darkness ... of ignorance of the true God who is the source of life.**

'I am the gate, whoever enters through me will be saved ... The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life ... ' [John 10:9-10]. Here the shepherd, who lay in the gateway of the sheepfold, protects and guards the sheep against all that would destroy or kill them: **spiritual death is exposure and vulnerability to all that would destroy us spiritually .**

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me' [John 10:11,14]. Here we learn by inference, that **spiritual death is such a terrible state that the good shepherd sacrifices his own life to save us from it , and, spiritual death is the opposite of knowing Christ and being known by him.**

'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die' [John 11:25,26]. Just as this verse teaches us that for those who believe in Christ spiritual life is a reality that persists beyond this physical life, it also teaches us by inference that **spiritual death is a reality on both sides of physical death.**

'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' [John 14:6].

This assumes that spiritual death is:

1. **being on a life path other than Jesus Christ;**
2. **having a concept of God and reality other than that revealed in Jesus Christ;**
3. **expecting spiritual life from any source other than Jesus Christ; and**
4. **separation from God.**

This fourth description of spiritual death perhaps encapsulates its core meaning and its ultimate despair: **spiritual death is separation from God.**

'I am the vine ... no branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine ... you are the branches ... '

[John 15:1,4,5]. **Spiritual death is existing unconnected to the source of life.**

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