

John's Twelve Divine Titles for Christ the LORD

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There are **12** total scriptures in the book of John providing **divine** name-titles used by the LORD to describe Himself. In **8** of these scriptures the LORD uses the special name-title "**I AM**" in conjunction with them (marked by * below). Our LORD first identified Himself with this unique name-title in Exodus 3:14, doing so in response to Moses' question. He wanted to know who it was that was speaking to Him from the burning bush. God answered Moses saying, "**I AM THAT I AM**". He then told Moses to tell the children of Israel, "**I AM** hath sent me [Moses] to you". All 12 of these name-titles in the book of John address the *divinity* of our LORD. Christ the LORD used this unique name-title the last time when a band of men came to arrest Him in Gethsemane, the night before His crucifixion. We read of this in John chapter 18. A band of men sent of the chief priests and Pharisees came looking for Christ that they might arrest Him. They brought Him bound as a prisoner before the Jewish leaders in an illegal trial conducted early in the morning hours. The band of men came asking for "Jesus of Nazareth". Our LORD answered them, saying twice "**I am he**" (John 18:5 & 8).

John was a special witness of our LORD's *divinity*, symbolized by *the eagle* in Revelation 4:6-7 and Ezekiel 1:10. John's witness is a special one. He was with the LORD personally at the cross, in Gethsemane, at the Last Supper, at the trial of Christ before Caiaphas, at the Mount of Transfiguration, in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and in other unique settings during the LORD's earthly mission. The other three gospel writers were not alive during Christ's ministry. The Holy Spirit, however, guided Matthew, Mark, and Luke to represent the three other beings surrounding God's throne in Revelation 4 and Ezekiel 1.

The gospel of Matthew addresses our LORD's *Kingship (the lion)*. The gospel of Mark addresses His role as a *servant* sent of God (*the calf* [or *the Ox* in Ezek. 1:10]). And the gospel of Luke addresses our LORD's *humanity* among the people (*the man*). Each addresses our LORD in one of these four special roles (see A.W. Pink, *Why Four Gospels*, Cross Reach Publications). John's twelve name-titles for Christ and His divinity include:

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| 1. | The Word | John 1:1 |
| 2. | The Creator | John 1:3 |
| 3. | The Only Begotten of the Father | John 1:14 |
| 4. | The Lamb of God | John 1:29 |
| 5. | The Bread of Life * | John 6:35 |
| 6. | The Light of the World* | John 9:5 |
| 7. | The Door of the Sheep* | John 10:7 |
| 8. | The Good Shepherd* | John 10:11 |
| 9. | The Resurrection and the Life* | John 11:25 |
| 10. | The Way, the Truth, and the Life* | John 14:6 |
| 11. | The True Vine* | John 15:1 |
| 12. | I am he* - Jesus of Nazareth | John 18:5 & 8 |

Four Roles in Christ's Ministry

Rev. 4:7	Son	Role	Gospel Writer	Confirmation in "Branch" Scriptures
Lion	Son of David	King of Israel	Matthew	"I will raise up unto David a righteous Branch, and a king shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jer.23:5).
Calf	Son of the Ox	Servant of God	Mark	"I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH" (Zech. 3:8).
Man	Son of Man	Human Form	Luke	"Behold the Man whose name is The BRANCH" (Zech. 6:12).
Eagle	Son of God	Divine Son	John	"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious" (Isa. 4:2).

The LORD's four roles in the four gospels provide additional reasons to love Him with our whole *heart* (Lion), our *might* or *strength* (Ox), our *mind* (man), and our *soul* (eagle). He revealed His true identity as Israel's Messiah and the Son of God at the end of His mission during the Feast of Tabernacles (John 8:58). There he used the name-title "**I AM**" a number of times, revealing that He was law-giver of the Old Testament atop fiery Sinai - the great "**I Am**", as reported by Moses (Ex. 3:14). This created such a stir among the wicked leaders of corrupted Judaism that they tried to take His life then and there. It was not yet His time, however. The wicked leaders claimed to be Abraham's seed. Christ labeled them as deceivers, the seed of another father - the devil, the father of lust and lies (see John 8:33-59). These and other true statements led to our LORD's crucifixion six months later at Passover the following year.