

Christ the I AM – The Eternal Presence
A compilation of spirit of prophecy quotations

Compiled by Terry Hill

“The Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, **is truly God in infinity, but not in personality.**” (*Ellen G. White, Ms 116, December 19th 1905, ‘An Entire Consecration’*)

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Christ and the Father are one

"I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." John 10:30-33

"There are light and glory in the truth that Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid. This is the light shining in a dark place, making it resplendent with divine, original glory. This truth, infinitely mysterious in itself, explains other mysterious and otherwise unexplainable truths, while it is enshrined in light, unapproachable and incomprehensible." (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, 5th April 1906, 'The Word made flesh')

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"We inquire of John, the beloved disciple. Hear his words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was God [sic]. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not. ... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

To Christ Himself we address the inquiry, "Who art thou?" Listen! "Before Abraham was, I am." "I and my Father are one." (Ellen G. White, *Letter 65* 1898, to Brother Howe and F. Griggs, August 23rd 1898)

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"We ask Christ Himself, Who art Thou? and the answer comes, "Before Abraham was, I AM." "I and My Father are one." (Ellen G. White, *Ms 140* 1903, 'A Divine Sin-Bearer')

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"The world's Redeemer was equal with God. His authority was as the authority of God. He declared that he had no existence separate from the Father. The authority by which he spoke, and wrought miracles, was expressly his own, yet he assures us that he and the Father are one." (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, January 7th 1890, 'Christ revealed the Father')

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"True, he [Jesus] declared, "There is none good but One, that is God," but again he said, "I and my Father are one." Jesus speaks of himself as well as the Father as God, and claims for himself perfect righteousness." (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, 10th October 1892, 'Draw from the source of strength')

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“Charged with his exalted mission, Jesus came into the world as the visible representative of the invisible God. He said to Philip: “Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? ... From henceforth ye know him and have seen him.” “I and my Father are one.” What height, and depth, and breadth of meaning in the Saviour’s words! They are clothed with a mysterious power that can only be spiritually discerned.” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, November 21st 1892, ‘Make all things according to the pattern’)

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“As Christ was speaking His last words of instruction to His disciples, before His crucifixion, Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.” Amazed at his dullness of comprehension, Christ asked with pained surprise, “Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?” The disciples had been Christ’s companions for nearly three years; they had listened to His words, witnessed His mighty works, and heard Him say to the Pharisees as He read their thoughts, “I and My Father are one,” and He was astonished that they did not yet know Him. If they had not been so slow of comprehension, if they had been more devoted hearers and doers of the Saviour’s words, they would not thus have grieved His heart of love by their unbelief.

Philip’s doubt called for the utterance of golden truth, which it was essential for the disciples to hear. “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?” Christ asked. “The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the very works’ sake.” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, January 27th 1898, ‘Knowing Christ’)

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“Christ, the divine Teacher, came to reveal the Father as a merciful, compassionate Being, full of goodness and truth. The Saviour swept back the shadow in which the enemy had enveloped the Father, declaring, “I and My Father are one; look on Me and behold God.” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, 1st May 1901, ‘The divine teacher’)

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“We need not look at the shadows that Satan casts on our path. He would eclipse heaven and Jesus and the light and power of heaven to us, and we keep talking of the power of Satan. But we need not talk of that. Isaiah presents it this way: “Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. Does not that say that I and My Father are one?” (Ellen G. White, *Ms 1 1889, Sermon, Ottawa, Kansas, May 11th 1889, ‘The quality of our faith’*)

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“But the Pharisees could not conceal their anger. As if filled with holy horror, they began to reason, saying, “Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sin, but God alone?” But it was the Son of the living God who had uttered the words,

“Thy sins be forgiven thee.” Had not the Pharisees been blinded by prejudice, they would have seen that he who was before them was the Christ, and that he was in the Father, and the Father in him. “I and my Father are one,” he declared.” (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, August 15th 1899, ‘Christ’s Mission’)

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“As a remedy for the terrible consequences into which selfishness led the human race, God gave His only begotten Son to die for mankind. How could He have given more? In this gift He gave Himself. “I and My Father are one,” said Christ.” (Ellen G. White, *The Worker’s Bulletin*, September 9th 1902, ‘Words of Admonition’, see also Letters 165 1901 and 134 1902)

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““I and my Father are one.”

With what firmness and power he [Jesus] uttered these words. The Jews had never before heard such words from human lips, and a convicting influence attended them; for it seemed that divinity flashed through humanity as Jesus said, “I and my Father are one.” The words of Christ were full of deep meaning as he put forth the claim that he and the Father were of one substance, possessing the same attributes.” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, November 27th 1893, ‘The true sheep respond to the voice of the shepherd’)

Christ the I AM (the eternal presence)

“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you” Exodus 3:14-15

“Then said the Jews unto him [Jesus], Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” John 8:57-58

“When God sent Moses to Pharaoh, he had light, but Pharaoh resisted and every resistance brought up a heavier stubbornness. Did God put a power upon him that he could not turn to the light? No, it was indifference to evidence. The stubbornness of Pharaoh was because light was shining that he would not receive. Day after day was the mighty hand of power revealed, but “Who is the Lord that I should serve Him?” “Who is He that I should know Him?” [Exodus 5:2.] He is the I AM. Who is the I AM? Jesus Christ, who was in the pillar of cloud. The very I AM is speaking to you. He says that if you hear His words and do them not, your house is built upon the sands; but if you are hearers and doers, your house is riveted upon the eternal Rock, and as well might all heaven be swept away as that one soul perish. [Matthew 7:24-27.] He does not want you to perish. He is giving you light.” (Ellen G. White, *Ms 15 1894*, *Talk at the Australian Bible School Chapel*, February 23rd 1894)

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"I AM means an eternal presence; the past, present, and future are alike with God. He sees the most remote events of past history, and, the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things that are transpiring daily. We know not what is before us, and if we did, it would not contribute to our eternal welfare. God gives us an opportunity to exercise faith and trust in the great I AM. The Lord must keep the city, or the watchmen labour in vain. This wonderful truth was revealed by Christ during His mission on earth.

Our Saviour says, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it and was glad." Fifteen hundred years before Christ laid off His royal robe and kingly crown, and left His position of honour in the heavenly courts, assumed humanity and walked a man among the children of men, Abraham saw His day and was glad. "Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM. Then took they up stones to cast at Him; because of that saying."

Christ was using the great name of God that was given to Moses to express the idea of the eternal presence. Isaiah also saw Christ, and his words are full of significance. He says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Speaking through Him, the Lord says, "I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour; ... The Pharisees were horrified at this declaration of Christ's, "Before Abraham was, I AM." They were beside themselves with rage that He should express such awful blasphemy, claiming to be the I AM." (Ellen G. White, *Present truth*, May 30th 1895, 'The Eternal Presence')

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"The truths of the third angel's message have been presented by some as a dry theory; but in this message is to be presented Christ the Living One. He is to be revealed as the first and the last, as the I AM, the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star. Through this message the character of God in Christ is to be manifested to the world. The call is to be sounded: "O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom." Isaiah 40:9-11." (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies, Volume 6, page 20, 'The work for this time'*)

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"The truth of the third angel's message has been proclaimed by some as a dry theory. But we must all place in that message Christ, as the first and the last, the I AM, the bright and morning Star. The message must be given, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." The second coming of Christ is near, even at the door. Who are prepared to look upon the bright and Morning-star? Who are ready to glorify God? Who will bring the bright and morning-star of hope, of mercy, of forgiveness, and of peace into their own hearts, and proclaim the last message of mercy to be given to the world? "O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times, December 23, 1897*)

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“It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, “I AM THAT I AM.... Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” Exodus 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel’s deliverance. So when He came “in the likeness of men,” He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God “manifest in the flesh.” 1 Timothy 3:16. And to us He says: “I AM the Good Shepherd.” “I AM the living Bread.” “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matthew 28:18. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. “God with us” is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.” (Ellen G. White, ‘The Desire of Ages p. 24 ‘God with us’)

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“The incarnate I AM is our abiding Sacrifice. The I AM is our Redeemer, our Substitute, our Surety. He is the Daysman between God and the human soul, our Advocate in the courts of heaven, our unwearying Intercessor, pleading in our behalf His merits and His atoning sacrifice. The I AM is our Saviour.” (Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, May 3rd 1899, ‘The Word made Flesh’)

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“God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the “Son of man” who shares the throne of the universe. It is the “Son of man” whose name shall be called, “Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both.” (Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, page 25, ‘God with us’)

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“The Shekinah had departed from the sanctuary, but in the Child of Bethlehem was veiled the glory before which angels bow. This unconscious babe was the promised seed, to whom the first altar at the gate of Eden pointed. This was Shiloh, the peace giver. It was He who declared Himself to Moses as the I AM. It was He who in the pillar of cloud and of fire had been the guide of Israel.” (Ellen G. White, ‘The Desire of Ages, page 52, ‘The Dedication’)

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“The incarnate I AM is our abiding Sacrifice. The I AM is our Redeemer, our Substitute, our Surety. He is the Daysman between God and the human soul, our Advocate in the courts of heaven, our unwearying Intercessor, pleading in our behalf His merits and His atoning sacrifice. The I AM is our Saviour.” (Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, May 3rd 1899, ‘The Word made Flesh’)

Grasp the fact that Christ is God

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:1-3

"When we look with the eye of faith upon the cross of Calvary, and see our sins laid upon the victim hanging in weakness and ignominy there,--when we grasp the fact that this is God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace,--we are led to exclaim, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us!" (Ellen G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, 11th February 1897, 'The Mind of Christ')

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"How wonderful is the thought that God became flesh and dwelt among us. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God....How can men claim to believe these words, and to be followers of Christ, and yet go on in their blind selfishness, following their perverted ideas." (Ellen G. White, *Ms 59 1903*, 'A call to repentance', typed July 2nd 1903)

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made....These ringing words come sounding down the line to our time. They are full of assurance; for John meant every word that he uttered. Inspired by God, these words possess a power that none can estimate who does not believe in Christ as his personal Saviour. They have a deep meaning, and a broad compass, and are eternal truth to all who believe them." (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, June 17th 1897, 'The Life And Light Of Men.')

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"The plan of salvation is not half discerned. It is made altogether too cheap a thing, and men do not take in the fact of how great an act of condescension it is on the part of Omnipotence to stoop to unite the divine with the human, to impart the Holy Spirit to the repenting transgressor of his holy law. God became man, clothing his divinity with humanity, and thus humanity has been elevated in the scale of moral value with God." (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, August 28th 1894, 'The obedient approved of God')

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"I wish that finite minds could see and sense the great love of the infinite God: His great self-denial, His self-sacrifice, in assuming humanity. God humbled Himself and became man and humbled Himself to die, and not only to die, but to die an ignominious death." (Ellen G. White, *Letter 37 1887 to E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones*, February 18th 1887)

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“The greatness of God cannot be measured or comprehended. **And that doctrine that denies the absolute Godhead of Jesus Christ, denies also the Godhead of the Father;** for no man knoweth the Son but the Father.” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, June 27th 1895, ‘Christ object in coming to the world’)

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“**Christ had not ceased to be God when He became man.** Though He had humbled Himself to humanity, **the Godhead was still His own.**” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 663, ‘Let not your heart be troubled’)

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“**Christ is God as well as man.** He who was with the Father before the world was became flesh, and dwelt among us. We may behold His glory.” (Ellen G. White, *Letter 96 1902, to P. T. Magan and E. A Sutherland, July 4th 1902*)

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“**Christ was God, but he did not appear as God.** He veiled the tokens of divinity, which had commanded the homage of angels and called forth the adoration of the universe of God. ... **What humility was this!...The eternal Word consented to be made flesh. God became man.** (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, February 20th 1893, ‘The plan of salvation’, see also *Signs of the Times* January 5th 1915)

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“**As a member of the human family, Jesus was mortal; but as God, He was the Fountain of Life to the world. ... Wondrous union of man and God!**”

The Son of God entered into the plan for man’s salvation, knowing all the steps that He must descend in order to make expiation for the sins of the burdened, groaning world. What humility was this! It amazed the angels. Tongue can never describe it, the imagination cannot take it in—**the eternal Word consented to be made flesh; God became man.**” (Ellen G. White, *MS 141 1901, ‘The divine and human nature of Christ’*)

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“**Wondrous combination of man and God!...What humility was this!** It amazed angels. The tongue can never describe it; the imagination can not take it in. **The eternal Word consented to be made flesh! God became man!** It was a wonderful humility.” (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, September 4th, 1900, ‘Christ man’s example’, see also *Review and Herald* July 5th 1887, and *Letter 11 1887, to Dr. Burke, March 10th 1887*)

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“**Christ was God in the flesh....**In his miracles he revealed himself as Lord. When he was asked by Philip to show him the Father, he answered, **"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father."** (Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*, Volume 3 page 259, 1878, ‘Ascension of Christ’)