

# John 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

## Analysis

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**Now I tell you before it come** (ἀπ' ἅρτι, ap' arti; πρὶν γενέσθαι, prin genesthai)—Jesus prophesies Judas' betrayal (v. 21) before its occurrence. Predictive prophecy authenticates His deity. **That, when it is come to pass, ye may believe** (πιστεύητε, pisteuēte)—fulfilled prophecy strengthens faith. The purpose clause reveals Jesus' pastoral care: He forewarns to prevent the disciples' faith from collapsing when betrayal occurs.

**That I am he** (ὅτι ἐγώ εἰμι, hoti egō eimi)—the KJV adds "he," but Greek simply reads "that I AM." This is the divine name from Exodus 3:14 that Jesus repeatedly claims (John 8:24, 28, 58; 18:5-6). Fulfilled prophecy proves Jesus is Yahweh incarnate. The betrayal won't negate His deity but confirm it—He foreknew and permitted it as part of redemptive plan. This echoes Isaiah 41:23, 44:6-8 where Yahweh's ability to predict the future proves His deity against false gods.

## Historical Context

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Written AD 85-95, John addresses second-generation Christians troubled by Jesus' apparent vulnerability to betrayal. How could deity be betrayed? John shows Jesus predicted and controlled events. Ancient readers familiar with Isaiah's prophecy-fulfillment test for deity would recognize Jesus' claim. The "I AM" formula explicitly identifies Jesus with Yahweh.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' foreknowledge of betrayal demonstrate His sovereignty over apparent defeat?
2. What does fulfilled prophecy reveal about Christ's identity as the eternal "I AM"?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀπ'	ἀρτι	λέγω	νῦμιν	πρὸ	τοῦ	γένηται	ἴνα	ὅταν
Now	G737	I tell	you	before	G3588	it come	that	when
G575		G3004	G5213	G4253		G1096	G2443	G3752
γένηται	πιστεύσητε	ὅτι	ἐγώ	εἰμι				
it come	ye may believe	that	I	am				
G1096	G4100	G3754	G1473	G1510				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 43:10** (Faith): Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

**John 14:29** (Faith): And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

**John 16:4** (Parallel theme): But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

**Malachi 3:1** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Isaiah 48:5** (Parallel theme): I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them.

**Matthew 11:3** (Parallel theme): And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

**Matthew 24:25** (Parallel theme): Behold, I have told you before.

**John 8:58** (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.