

John 4:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

Analysis

Jesus' declaration 'I that speak unto thee am he' (Greek: *egō eimi*, 'I am') represents His clearest messianic claim thus far in John's Gospel. That He reveals this to a Samaritan woman of questionable character demonstrates the gospel's universality and grace. God's election includes unlikely recipients, confounding human expectations of who deserves revelation.

Historical Context

This explicit messianic claim to a Samaritan contrasts with Jesus' usual reticence about messianic titles among Jews. The setting shows that Christ's mission transcended ethnic boundaries from the beginning.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Christ's self-revelation to this woman teach about God's choice to reveal Himself to unlikely people?
2. How should Christ's 'I am' declaration shape our understanding of His identity and authority?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῇ	ό	Ἰησοῦς	Ἐγώ	εἰμι	ό	λαλῶν	σοι
saith	unto her	G3588	Jesus	I	am	G3588	that speak	unto thee
G3004	G846		G2424	G1473	G1510		G2980	G4671

Additional Cross-References

John 8:24 (Parallel theme): I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Luke 13:30 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

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