



I AM

**IT IS
FINISHED**



Todd Daughtry

I AM...IT IS FINISHED

EXOD. 3:14; JOHN 19:30

by

Todd Daughtry



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Todd Daughtry is the brother of Pete Daughtry, pastor-teacher of Albany Bible Church. This booklet is adapted from a Christmas greeting which he wrote and presented to the Daughtry family.

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Preface

[†] This and subsequent notations from Scripture are taken from the New American Standard Bible 1995. Brackets in quotations indicate a modified translation.

Before you begin your Bible study, you should be sure that you are in fellowship, under the control of God the Holy Spirit, so that He can make spiritual truth understandable to you. You can do this by naming any known sins to God the Father and accepting the forgiveness provided by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

1 Jn. 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If you have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, the issue for you is faith in Him. The Lord Jesus Christ made perfect provision for your salvation and eternal security. You need only tell God the Father that you accept the accomplished work of Christ on your behalf.

Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

2 Cor. 5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Eph. 2:8, 9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

I AM...IT IS FINISHED

The two phrases “I AM” (Exod. 3:14) and “It is finished” (John 19:30) sum up the divine perspective of human history. They encompass God’s purpose and His grace plan for the human race. These phrases center on Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Godhead—on His **relevance**, His **sufficiency**, and His **preeminence**. They highlight His deity, His thoughts, His words, and His actions.

These two short sentences, punctuated by divine intervention, give us the meaning and purpose of all human history. They summarize the books of Philippians and Colossians as Paul challenges and equips us to be imitators of Christ and illustrates the **relevance**, **sufficiency**, and **preeminence** of Christ in human and angelic history. Paul shows us a practical method to appreciate Christ. He lets us in on a secret: it is not an elite, ethereal, esoteric, emotionally ecstatic experience. Quite the opposite, appreciation for Christ in our lives is an everyday, everywhere, everyone, eternal experience for all who believe: the common man and the nobleman, the sinner and the saint, the Jew and the Gentile. It is based on faith in Christ and trust in His Word.

RELEVANCE: The Son of God is more than just our Jesus of the Gospels. He did not burst into human history at the Nativity, and He did not vanish after the Cross. He is Eternal God—“I AM,” Alpha-Omega, Creator, Lamb of God, Messiah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Bright Morning Star, the Word, Yahweh, Elohim, Adonai, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. It was He who walked with Adam and Eve in Eden. He was the pillar of fire and the cloud in the desert leading the children of Israel. He is, always was, and always will be the divine focus of human history, even now as He sits at the Father’s right hand in heaven (Col. 3:1).

His relevance transcends the pages of the Bible. If He is the Father’s focus, He must be the focus of obedient children (Heb 12:1-3). He is not just there for us when we *need*. He is *always* there, *always relevant*. How we feel about that or whether that impacts us has no bearing on the fact of the matter. “I AM” says it all. “Christ is all, and in all” (Col. 3:11). As we know, ALL means ALL!

God’s Word holds the answer to every moral or controversial question imaginable: Why are we here? What should we do? Where did it all come from? How does it all work? What does it all mean? A little investigation will even tell you how

to dress, who your friends should be, where to live, work and play, how we should treat one another, true differences between man and woman, how to understand it all, even how to eat for a healthy lifestyle. “The [respect for] the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov.1:7).

“I AM” and “It is finished” are at the same time past, present, and future. They indicate Christ’s purpose and His eternal relevance in God’s plan.

SUFFICIENCY: It is no accident or coincidence that John starts his gospel with ARCHE: “In the beginning...” (John 1:1-2), and that the first words of the Hebrew Bible are BERESHITH...ELOHIM: “In the beginning God...” (Gen. 1:1). Two different phrases in two different languages not only give a starting point for everything but also tell us who is in control. John makes it clear that the God of creation is Christ, the second person of the Trinity, who came to earth as Messiah (John 1:14). He also indicates that Christ and His Word are one, completely inseparable, and that He is the source of eternal life for man.

Christ as the infant in the manger is at the same time God: the creator and sustainer of the universe, the savior, protector and advocate of

man; He is the same God as He hangs between heaven and earth at Calvary. Like a symphony conductor He controls the deceptively robust order of our universe. Sun, moon, stars, planets to infinity maintain proper and precise planes and orbits; the earth rotates and revolves faithfully on the slight but perfect tilt of its axis that allows life as we understand it to exist and brings the turn of the seasons that trumpet God's grace plan of redemption every spring—the plan that marches on through time and eternity, unimpeded by the completely anticipated Adamic blunder or Satanic sabotage. Paul writes, “we are without excuse,” as God reveals Himself to us in nature (Rom. 1:19-20).

This sufficiency must become reality to us. If Christ can do all of this, He can certainly manage our affairs. We must but avail ourselves of His power, let His strength become ours, by coming to an understanding and recognition of Christ in the whole counsel of God, and by using the same secret weapons He used to stay on mission: the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Whether you realize it or not, Christ is “I AM” in everything and will see it through to “It is finished.”

PREEMINENCE: Christ's preeminence in God's plan we must parlay into our plans.

During the Council of Divine Decrees, the members of the Godhead convened to initiate human history; these are the discussions between the members of the Trinity alluded to in Genesis. Omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God, knowing all the knowable, every potential or real consequence of every thought, word, or deed of man and angel, started and finished "IT" in a moment of eternity. The nod of assent and the rap of the gavel of ratification set into motion all of history and, paradoxically, at the same time declared, "It is finished." The creation of earth and man, the call of Abraham and the resulting 483 years of Hebrew history, filtering down to the first advent of Christ to earth at Bethlehem, when God's Grace Plan of Salvation, hidden for centuries, was revealed and completed.

Now, in the wake of the Hypostatic Union*, we wait for the eschatological completion of the "Divine Outline of History" (see book by this title by R. B. Thieme, Jr.), when human history will be but archival footage for our perusal while we learn

* The presence of both divine nature and human nature in the unique person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

and come to eternal appreciation for who and what God truly is.

Perhaps the rap of the gavel at the conference of Divine Decrees is the “BIG BANG” that constantly resounds in nature but science so blindly seeks. Now science chases “the god particle”: the key to how and why biological life exists. If they would but read the first chapter of Romans, they would realize their futility to find a quantitative, empirical answer to the ultimate riddle, a riddle whose answer lies in infinite layers of discovery. Einstein realized that our discoveries and understanding apart from the divine are relative to man. What man seeks, however, is relative to omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God, whose presence is obvious in the redundancy of inner and outer space. What a sense of humor God has! Man, in his vast arrogance, continues to waste vast amounts of resources to find an answer that is readily available, at the cost of a mustard seed’s worth of faith, to anyone who will seek it in the preeminence of Christ.

“I AM” and “It is finished” project completion and perfection into every realm of existence and display Christ’s irrevocable place in God’s plan.

CONCLUSION: In His Word, God the Father shows us Christ's **relevance, sufficiency** and **preeminence**. In God's plan, from eternity past to eternity future, in the interim reality of human history, "Christ is all and is in all" (Col.3:11). Christ is the "I AM" since the first hint of the nod of assent to the Divine Decrees. From that eternal moment, "It is finished" forever.

Satan's primal error is disbelief. Believing he is like God, he thinks he decides when "It is finished." The Bible and history are replete with his attempts to "finish" it. Perhaps God in His grace would show him mercy if he would accept the preeminence of Christ. But we know that doesn't happen. We know "the rest of the story." "It is finished." Satan's fate is sealed.

The genius and simplicity of our two statements could have only been divinely inspired in eternity—eternity that is not limited by clocks and calendars, where everything is current. These two statements, in two different languages and separated by centuries, sum up the reason and purpose of human history. One echoes the other: perfect, complete, mature; relevant, sufficient, preeminent. They give us confidence in our faith and expose man's futility to understand it all.

So, what is man's relevance in these matters of the divine? Our relevance is found "in HIM". In Him *we* are eternal. We become one with Him so we can share in and enjoy His sufficiency and preeminence. From the simple genius of our two phrases comes a simple requirement of man. To truly gain what we seek—happiness, peace, security, wisdom—we must but give assent to this divine truth through faith and faith alone.

With all this in mind, this Christmas, all future Christmases, and every day in between, focus on the eternal "I AM". Focus on His eternally renewable mercies. Focus on His finished work; focus on His place in history and in our lives. Put His thinking to work in your life, and you will experience **His relevance, sufficiency and preeminence.**



Albany native W. W. “Pete” Daughtry was called to be the pastor-teacher of Albany Bible Church shortly after the church was formed in 1974. He attended Emmaus Bible College in Chicago, Illinois, and has studied intensively for over 40 years under the teaching of R. B.

Thieme, Jr., of Berachah church in Houston. The principle focus of Pete’s teaching pastorate has been to clearly present the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the procedures for living the unique spiritual life provided for believers in the Church Age. In addition to Little Faiths, Pete has authored The Shield of Faith, Mothers are Human Too, The Believer’s Field Manual on Suffering, and others, all available through Albany Bible Church.



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