

Easter 2026

Consider Him

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4/05/2026

It is hard to talk about the events of Easter without mentioning **the cross**. The word “**cross**” is found mentioned twenty-eight times in scripture! Twenty-eight is the number that points to ETERNAL LIFE. Jesus was crucified, and died upon **the cross** of Calvary so that we could have ETERNAL LIFE, thus the work Jesus finished upon **the cross** gave all who believe on Him ETERNAL LIFE. John the Baptist said in JOHN 1:29 *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* This taking away the sin of the world is what happened upon **the cross** of Calvary! Jesus opened up heaven for you and me upon **the cross** of Calvary! The day Jesus died upon **the cross** of Calvary would have to rank first in importance of all the days in the history of man. The day He rose from the dead three days after His death on **the cross** of Calvary would have to rank a very close second being equally as important. Jesus died upon **the cross** of Calvary, and rose again the third day, and in this process gave us ETERNAL LIFE! Paul also wrote in ROMANS 10:9 & 10 -- *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* The greatest day in any man’s personal history is the day he or she believed that Jesus Christ died on **the cross** of Calvary for their sins, and accept Him as their personal Saviour believing that God hath raised Him from the dead.

The last verse of scripture that mentions **the cross** is HEBREWS 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* Then the Apostle Paul, the writer of HEBREWS, makes a most profound request in HEBREWS 12:3 *For consider him that endured (upon the cross) such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.* This request to **consider Him**, to **consider Jesus**, *...the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,...* is a most profound request, and a requirement for all who want God’s best. The list of things to **consider** concerning Jesus, and His endless, limitless, eternal agape love for us is a lifetime endeavor. The psalmist David **considered Him**, and His immeasurableness as he wrote about Him. PSALMS 23, and PSALMS 139 are two PSALMS of David that highlight this fact, so study them again.

This Easter morning we are going to *...consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.* We only have time to **consider** a couple of thoughts about **Him** this morning, and His great love wherewith He loved us. One aspect of Jesus love for us that rarely gets mentioned is the fact that Jesus was up all night the night before He died on **the cross** for our sins. As we **consider Him**, and read a few scriptures from this most eventful night it will become apparent that there was no time for Jesus to sleep on His last night on earth, and we will see why He couldn’t sleep this burdensome night. We will see this by studying a few verses of JOHN chapters 13-18 along with some details filled in in MATTHEW 26, and LUKE 22. Here we find a record from the time of the last Passover Jesus had with His disciples in JOHN 13 & 14. In JOHN 15 and 16 we find Jesus words spoken to His disciples on the way to the garden of Gethsemane. Sometime that night along the way we find Jesus praying His prayer of intercession in JOHN 17, which the Apostle John records Jesus saying in verse 1 *...the hour is come...* . He knew what late hour in the night it was when He was praying this prayer. Sometime that night, perhaps after that prayer of intercession in JOHN 17, which is the real Lord’s Prayer, we find the following discussion recorded in MATTHEW 26.

MATTHEW 26:36 *Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little*

further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Luke's account adds a couple of more details here. LUKE 22:41 *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. (Jesus couldn't sleep after this, could you?) 44 *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

Now back to MATTHEW 26:40 *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

Was Jesus tired too after all of this? Obviously yes, but we just read in LUKE 22:43 that *...there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.* There was a lot more action that took place that last Passover night before Jesus *...gave Himself (on the cross) for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father...* ...GALATIANS 1:4.

As we **consider Him**, and His last night here on earth, let's continue reading about another of the many events that occurred the rest of this sleepless night in JOHN 18. JOHN 18:3 *Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, **I am he.** And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

Is there any question in your mind as to who "**I Am He**" is? In JOHN 1:1-3 we read: *In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ...14 *And **the Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us.* We know that the Apostle John is here talking about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

In REVELATION 19:13, which John wrote, we read that His *...name is called **The Word of God.*** In COLOSSIANS 1:14-17 we find this said about Christ Jesus: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:** 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.* Is there still any question in your mind as to who "**I Am He**" is? We find in 1 JOHN 4:9 that God the Father *...sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.* In 1 JOHN 5:7 we read: *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.* Again in REVELATION 1:5 we read that He, Christ Jesus, **The Word of God** *...loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.*

Jesus is the same "**I Am,**" **The Word of God**, that said to Abram in GENESIS 15:1 *...Fear not, Abram: **I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*** He also said in GENESIS 15:7 *...**I am the LORD** that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.* Jesus said in JOHN 8:58 *...Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I am.*** The same "**I Am,**" **The Word of God**, who is Jesus, said to Moses in EXODUS 3:6 *...**I am the God of thy father, the God of Abrahams, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,**...* and in EXODUS 3:14 He said: *...**I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.*

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, and JOHN record ninety “**I am**” statements made by Jesus. We read in REVELATION ten more “**I AM**” statements of Jesus, and here is eight of them. REVELATION 1:8 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. ...1:11 ... I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:...*1:17 *...I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.* REVELATION 21:6 *...I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.* REVELATION 22:13 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.* REVELATION 22:16 *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

The Apostle John was there that night when Jesus was betrayed by Judas, and before Jesus was arrested John wrote what happened here in JOHN 18:6, that Jesus *...said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.* John is the only gospel writer to write of this event, and he wrote about this after pondering, and **considering Jesus**, and His life, His death, and His resurrection for over sixty years before he took a pen in hand to document His life! And when John finally wrote some of it down, prominent in his mind was the fact that he, the Apostle John, had been privileged to live with the Great I AM for three and a half years! The Apostle John expressed this in 1 JOHN 1:1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.* Truly John did spend a lot of His time **considering Him**.

Let's use our remaining time to go back to The Gospel According to JOHN, and **consider Him**, Jesus the Great I AM. In JOHN 1 the Apostle John also **considered Him**, and wrote how the Great I AM *...was made flesh and dwelt among us.* In JOHN 2 the Apostle John penned how the Great I AM turned water into wine! In JOHN 3 the Great I AM explained to Nicodemus that *...Ye must be born again.* In JOHN 4 Jesus, the Great I AM, revealed Himself to the Samaritan woman that He is the Great I AM, the Messiah. In JOHN 5 Jesus, the Great I AM, explains that the scriptures testify of Him, then He says in verse 43 *I am come in my Father's name...* . In JOHN 6 Jesus, the Great I AM, feeds five thousand men, and their families with a boys lunch of five barley loaves, and two small fishes. That night the Great I AM, (the Creator of all things, and by whom all things consist, and hold together,) walked on water; walked on a rough and troubled sea! Still in JOHN 6 Jesus, the Great I AM explains in verse 35: *...I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* In JOHN 7:28 & 29 Jesus, the Great I AM states: *...I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. 29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.* **Consider Him**, Jesus, the Great I AM in JOHN 8 where He says: *...I am the light of the world:...* *...I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. 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.* Then He states: *...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.* **Consider Him** again, in JOHN 9 where Jesus, the Great I AM states: *...I am the light of the world.* In JOHN 10 **consider Jesus** words that *...I am the door of the sheep. ...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.* Remember what we stated earlier, how that Christ “**gave Himself**” there upon the cross of Calvary? In JOHN 11 **consider Him**, Jesus, the Great I AM, who in this chapter raises Lazarus from the dead, and then announces: *...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.* In JOHN 12:46 Jesus, the Great I AM proclaims: *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.* In JOHN 13 at the last Passover, Jesus, the Great I AM, who knows all things, foretells of His betrayal, and tells Peter *...The cock shall not crow, till thou has denied me thrice.* In JOHN 14:6 **I am** explains to Thomas: *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* And then Jesus, the Great I AM, promises them, and us, another Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost. In JOHN 15 Jesus, the Great I AM, explains: *I am the true vine, and my Father is*

the husbandman. ...I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Consider Him, Jesus, the Great I AM in JOHN 16 as He one last time explains the importance of the receiving the Holy Ghost. JOHN 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. Then He says in verse 32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. Consider Him, Jesus, the Great I AM in JOHN 17 as He prays the real Lord's prayer, and makes five (GRACE) more "I am" statements, the last one being in verse 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

As we leave today may we all continue to ponder the depths of HEBREWS 12:3. HEBREWS 12:3 *For consider him* (the Great I AM, who never sleeps, or slumbers, who does all things well, who was up all night the night before He died on **the cross** for our sins; Him, who is before all things, and by him all things consist; Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood) *that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*