

**QUESTION (for pairs/triads)**

**Think of the topics of Way, Truth, and Life in Scripture. When you think of these topics, what comes to mind? Try to think of verses, metaphors, or people...anything important that comes to mind.**

**WAY?** (priest as mediator, way through Red Sea, Ps. 1 walk not in way of wicked)

**John 10:9 (ESV)**

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” (salvation)

**Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV)**

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

**Acts 4:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

**Acts 9:2; 22:4**

Jesus’ followers became known as the Way (Acts 9:2; 22:4)

Christians are described as **belonging to the Way** (Gk. *hodos*, “road, highway, way of life”), meaning either the way of salvation (16:17; cf. Jesus’ teachings in Matt. 7:14; John 14:6) or the true way of life in relation to God (cf. Acts 18:25–26; cf. Ps. 1:1, 6; 27:11). ESVSB

**1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

**John 10:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

**Ephesians 2:18 (ESV)**

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**TRUTH?** (Jesus as Word – truth of God flesh, Bereans – examined...Paul said was true)

**John 1:9** “the true light”

**John 1:17 (ESV)**

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**John 1:14 (ESV)**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 8:32**

“If you hold to my teaching, then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

**1 John 5:20 (ESV)**

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

**LIFE?** (God breaths life – man, valley of dry bones; shalom, peaceful life; new birth)

**John 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 10:10 (ESV)**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

**John 11:25 (ESV)**

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

## **Let's Read Text Together, John 14:1-7**

- **Context** – Jesus and his disciples in upper room at the Last Supper, night before the cross. Having the Passover meal together. This text is part of the upper room discourse, Jesus' last words for his disciples before going to the cross.

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

## **Spoken on the eve of the crucifixion!**

- We sometimes forget this, but Jesus is about to die! What will disciples do?
- These words are to be reassuring that they are secure, they believe and will experience life, no matter what happens. They have trusted in Jesus, the W T L !

He's comforting them, He is going away to heaven to prepare a place for them.

- Promises to come again and take them to the place he prepares.
- He says you know the way to this place, to heaven.
- Thomas, how can we know the way? (to heaven)
- Jesus answers I am the Way T L, no one comes to Father, gets to heaven without going through Jesus.
- So Jesus is the Way to heaven, the path and the goal to have eternal life in heaven.

**Context after** – Jesus says from now on you do know the Father and have seen the Father... and verse 9, “whoever has seen me has seen the Father”

- So, Jesus is the only “way” to know the Father and have a relationship with him!

## **Let's look at the meaning of each of our three phrases:**

### **The Way**

- “walk in the way” it says in Proverbs.
- So, way can mean a course of behavior, a way or direction of life (BDAG).
- Also, remember in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, enter through the narrow gate, take the narrow way – for the way to destruction is broad. Jesus said, “the way is hard that leads to life and those who find it are few.”
- So “way” also a road leading to a certain point (LEX), the path going toward the goal. That's Jesus!

### **The Truth**

- Truth is a “quality,” truth, “conforms to reality, often with the implication of dependability” its reliable (LEX).
- Truth is the “content” of what is true, what is ultimate reality. (BDAG)
- This true, truth is mediated through Jesus. He mediates truth, it comes through him to us. John 1:17 says, “truth came through Jesus.”
- And here in our passage, not only mediates, Jesus calls himself truth.
  - He himself is the truth. He embodies it.

### **The Life**

- Life is a “state – a condition of living, of being alive”... living with ultimate “healthiness, energy, vitality, etc.” (LEX)
- This life is God! God is life, he gives life, breaths the breath of life.
  - And Jesus is life and gives life!
- John 5:26, “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.”
- Jesus received life from God, and Jesus has “life in himself!”

## **Let's look at our phrases in relation to the Old Testament – it's topics and symbols**

Jesus, as the Way, Truth, and the Life, fulfills the main offices in the Old Testament of Prophet, Priest, and King. (Gospel Transformation Bible)

### **1. The Prophet corresponds with Jesus as the Truth**

A prophet spoke the words of God and told truth to Israel. Jesus is the ultimate Prophet; he is the Word of God and speaks truth. He's the truth in flesh.

### **2. The Priest corresponds with Jesus as the Way**

A priest had access to God's presence and performed sacrifices. The way to atonement was through the priests. Jesus, as the Great High Priest, sacrificed himself, atoned for our sins, so that the way to God's presence could be open.

### **3. The King corresponds with Jesus as the Life**

A king provided abundant life for his people, a life of peace and protection. Jesus, as the ultimate King of Kings, provides life for us, peace with God and protection against all evil.

Additionally, Jesus as the Way, Truth, and Life fulfills Old Testament symbols, teachings, and promises. (Kostenberger – he mentioned a few, but I wanted to flesh these ideas out a bit further)

#### **1. Jesus as the Way fulfills Old Testament symbols of access. (to God)**

He fulfills symbols such as the curtain in the temple, the priesthood, and the sacrifices.

For example, the curtain in the temple symbolized access to God's presence. Only the High Priest could go in once per year. But this curtain was torn in two because of the cross! We can now have access to God through Jesus, the Way to God has opened up! We can boldly approach his throne with confidence to find mercy and grace in our time of need (Heb. 4:16).

#### **2. Jesus as the Truth fulfills Old Testament teachings and prophecies.**

Psalm 119:142 says, "your law is true." And Psalm 33:4 says, "for the Word of the Lord is right and true: he is faithful in all he does." (NIV). Jesus is God's faithful, true Word made incarnate. Jesus is also faithful in all he does. Faithful to fulfill the Old Testament teachings in truth. Jesus said, "if you hold to my

teaching, then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32).

Furthermore, Jesus said that he came, not to abolish the law, but to fulfill the law. He fulfills all that the truths and teaching of what the Old Testament pointed toward in the Messiah! Remember what Jesus spoke to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus? He opened all the Scriptures to them and showed from Moses to the Prophets what was taught concerning himself.

Jesus also fulfilled prophetic teachings and predictions. Conservatively, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in his earthly ministry (answers.org). In Jesus, prophecies came true!

### **3. Jesus as the Life fulfills Old Testament promises of eternal life.**

Psalms 16:11 promises, “You have made known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Jesus fulfills this promise by providing the way to eternal life through faith in his atoning sacrifice.

Proverbs 4:20-22 says that God’s words are, “life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.” Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, who will resurrect our flesh, bring full healing to our bodies in heaven. Also, Jesus’ words are the eternal life to those who find them.

**So, Jesus** as the Way, Truth, and Life fulfills Old Testament symbols, teachings, and promises.

**I am the Way, Truth, and Life. What a wonderful, clear statement of who Jesus is!**

- A phrase loaded with meaning, jam-packed with precious truth.

William MacDonald says,

“This lovely verse makes it clear that the Lord Jesus Christ is Himself the way to heaven. He does not merely show the way; he **IS** the Way. Salvation is a Person.”

**So we have the Way, Truth, Life... notice those phrases as they relate to one another in light of the context of John 14.**

- Looking at context, it seems Jesus is emphasizing the first idea, he is the Way.
- Thomas' question was about knowing the **way** and Jesus' answer was about the **Way** – then he says I am...WTL and then talks about the way again, “no one comes to the Father except through me” – he's the only Way to the Father.
- So the Way is the “principle theme,” (Car) main predicate, the main statement.
- The Truth and Life “support” the Way, “clarify” the Way, “spell out the benefits” of the Way.
- Jesus is the Way for someone to come to God, because he embodies the truth of God and he is the eternal life of God.

All three phrases are important, but I wanted to take the rest of our time to look at the Way and dive into some OT passages related to it.

**So with this in mind, let's look at some of the Old Testament Background of Way.**

1) The Way to Zion, 2) the Way into the holy of holies.

### **The Way to Zion**

#### **Isaiah 35:8–10 (ESV)**

“And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

**How does this passage describe “the Way?” What are the benefits and blessings in this passage? How is this passage fulfilled in Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life?**

- Given to the exiles, sorrowful and looking for a brighter future.

- The Way is so clearly marked, even fools stay on it!
- The way is safe, secure, joyful, pure, holy. Of Holiness.
- It is for the redeemed, ransomed – fulfilled in Christ’s salvation. Jesus is our Way of Holiness as the WTL. He makes us holy by his blood, we are redeemed... Isa 40:3, voice in wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord!
- The coming back to the land foreshadows coming to the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 12:22-24 – come to Mt Zion, heavenly Jerusalem; Rev 21:4) ESVSB

### **Isaiah 62:10–12 (ESV)**

“Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

**How does this passage describe “the Way?” What are the benefits and blessings in this passage? How is this passage fulfilled in Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life?**

- Hope for exiles, comfort for those looking for restoration back to land.
  - Called to go through gates, prepare way, build up the highway, signal nations.
  - Call is that the way is made clear and built up to go to Zion, “a City Not Forsaken” and to be saved!
  - Way of salvation, way of reward. Recompense” – fruit of God’s work.
  - Way of a Holy People, way of a Redeemed people, Sought out by God, Not Forsaken.
  - Jesus is ultimate fulfillment of these themes for Israel.
  - Jesus is this ultimate way for us, way of salvation, reward, and recompense!
  - He is the fruit of God’s work offered for us, to make us a Holy people.
  - Jesus our way of redemption that we might be called the Redeemed of the Lord.
- 1 Peter 2:9–10 - Many of these themes apply to us!



“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (Redemption from sins!)

### **The Way through the curtain**

#### **Hebrews 10:19–22 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the **new and living way** that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (So let us hold fast, not give up meeting together, 23-25)

**How does Jesus, the Way (John 14:6), provide a new and living way? How does this compare and contrast with the Old Testament holy places? Describe the blessings of this passage.**

- In the OT, the way to God was practically closed. Access to God’s presence hidden behind a curtain. Only the High Priest could go once a year.
- Yet today, there is a major difference!
- But now, a “new and living way through the curtain was opened” by Jesus!
- Matt 27:50-51 – “the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” Symbolizing the access we have through Christ.
- And Jesus “is the great high priest.” Sacrificed his life once-for-all to open the way to God. His blood gives us the confidence to enter holy places, to have peace with God, to fully enjoy his presence.
- “we have confidence to enter” by “the blood of Jesus” (19)
- Benefits/blessings: confidence in approaching God, clean hearts/consciences/bodies.

## **BIG IDEA - APPLICATIONS**

**So, what does this look like in our lives? What difference does this “I Am” of Jesus make?**

Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life, is the only road to true, eternal life. As the Way, he is the path to heaven and to a relationship with God. As the Truth, he embodies what is true. As the life, Jesus is eternal life.

So when we feel lost or confused, in need of direction and assurance, Jesus shows us the ways of God and the path to eternal life. He embodies truth, so we can trust his Word when we need direction. Jesus is eternal life. He provides an abundant relationship with God and an eternal future in heaven.

**Summary of all the I Am's as we end this series!**

**Before Abraham Was, I Am (John 8:58). Jesus claims he is the OT God who is the “I am who I am.” (Ex 3:14 – burning bush) Jesus is God.**

### **1. I Am The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)**

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, gives life to the dead and provides true spiritual life.

So when we feel stuck, defeated, and spiritually stagnant, Jesus provides resurrection power to overcome death and the Devil. And He provides resurrection power to give life in abundance now and hope for the future.

### **2. I Am The Light of the World (John 8:12)**

Jesus, the Light of the World, gives us the light of life. We no longer have to live in darkness. He provides truth for us to walk in today and gives us hope for a bright future.

So when we feel in the dark, confused about life, or discouraged because of sin, Jesus provides truth, understanding, and his firm promises to lean on.

### **3. I Am The True Vine (John 15:1)**

Jesus, the True Vine, provides true, genuine nourishment. He provides spiritual sustenance and power.

So when we feel spiritually dry, weary, and unconnected, Jesus gives us the strength to thrive and the power to be fruitful Christians, for we cannot bear fruit apart from him.

### **4. I Am The Good Shepherd (John 10:11-14)**

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows us, protects us, leads us, and saves us by his sacrifice.

So when we stray, he knows us and what we need to get back on the path. When we face danger and spiritual attack, he protects us. When we get scared and anxious, he provides for us. And when we need direction, he guides us.

### **5. I Am The Door (John 10:7)**

Jesus, the Door for the sheep, is our salvation, security, sustenance, and satisfaction. He provides the only way to eternal life.

So when we are in danger, he gives us protection and peace. He sustains us spiritually through his Word and provides for our needs. And when our hearts wander, he satisfies our deepest longings now and promises to satisfy us with future abundance in heaven.

### **6. I Am The Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48)**

Jesus, as the Bread of Life, is God's provision of eternal life. Everyone who believes in him has eternal food, life forever. He is also the Word of God.

So when we need spiritual sustenance, he gives us the food of God, His Word, to provide spiritual direction and life. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled!

## **7. I Am The Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6)**

Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life, is the only road to true, eternal life. As the Way, he is the path to heaven and to a relationship with God. As the Truth, he embodies what is true. As the life, Jesus is eternal life.

So when we feel lost or confused, in need of direction and assurance, Jesus shows us the ways of God and the path to eternal life. He embodies truth, so we can trust his Word when we need direction. Jesus is eternal life. He provides an abundant relationship with God today and an eternal future in heaven.

## **PRAYER**