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**THE BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF  
EGŌ EIMI SAYINGS IN THE FOURTH GOSPEL**

**A THESIS PRESENTED TO**

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**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
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**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

“The Background and Significance of ‘Ego Eimi’ Sayings in the Fourth Gospel” is an attempt to discover the deep truths about the person and power of Jesus, the second Person of the Godhead. Each of these sayings calls one to one experience or the other. Thus, the revelation of God is incurably experiential for man.

The ‘Ego Eimi’ Sayings of Jesus have great relevance for everyday reality, especially those in the Fourth Gospel. This is where Jesus summoned His hearers – the Jews, the Twelve disciples, the religious leaders, and all classes of people among His audience, to richest and most blessed experiences not available elsewhere. These experiences include: illumination, liberation, eternal salvation, genuine satisfaction, divine present and providence, and assurance.

Man is richer when he pays more attention to the theological, historical, and experiential significance of these sayings. In other words, every man should therefore acknowledge God in history as well as in daily experiences, appropriate and appreciate His blessings as revealed in these Sayings.

## B.CONCLUSION

The 'Ego Eimi' sayings in the Fourth Gospel imply many things to both believers and non-believers. For believers, these sayings express the sufficiency and uniqueness of

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<sup>167</sup> C.K.Barrett, The Gospel According to St. John. p.58

Jesus Christ for the sustenance of not only their faith but also for their everyday living even till eternity. The believer's understanding and comprehension are greatly enhanced by these sayings.

The 'Ego Eimi' sayings in the Fourth Gospel are equally important for the non-believers. They call non-believers to 'life in all its fullness' which is not just what Christ alone can give, but which is also Christ Himself. More than other Christological expressions in the Fourth Gospel, 'Ego Eimi' sayings make the "saving character of Jesus' mission visible in impressive images and symbols"<sup>168</sup>. These sayings are highly soteriological.

### C. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the course of this research, this writer has come to discover that some of the studies done on the 'Ego Eimi' sayings of the Fourth Gospel have little or no connection with practical Christian living.

Thus, this writer suggests the following:

(i) Every Christian should take note of the 'Ego Eimi' sayings of Jesus as found in the Fourth Gospel. Then each one should thoroughly learn them and always recall them at moments of crises. This writer is sure that the "I AM" Himself would always bless everyone who puts his or her trust in Him.

(iii) Contemporary preachers and teachers of the Bible should make more messages from these sayings. Rudolf Schnackenburg asserts that the existential approach of these sayings "gives them a continued value for present day preaching"<sup>169</sup>.

<sup>168</sup> Rudolf Schnackenburg, "Excursus 8: The Origin and Meaning of the Formula", The Gospel According to St. John, p.88.

<sup>169</sup> Schnackenburg, "Excursus 8: the Origin and Meaning of the Formula", p.89.

This writer was richly blessed even in the course of this research.

(iii) Further research should be carried out to discover the significance of 'I AM' sayings in the Old Testament which has been assumed to be the background for the sayings found in the Fourth Gospel. This would facilitate better understanding of the Johannine usage. More so, that there is an awareness of progression from Exodus 3:14 to Isaiah 43:10-13 and finally to the Fourth gospel.<sup>170</sup> The world cannot possibly exhaust the richness of 'Ego Eimi' saying of Jesus.

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<sup>170</sup> Andreas J.Kostenberger, The Missions of Jesus and the Disciples According to the Fourth Gospel, pp.47-48.