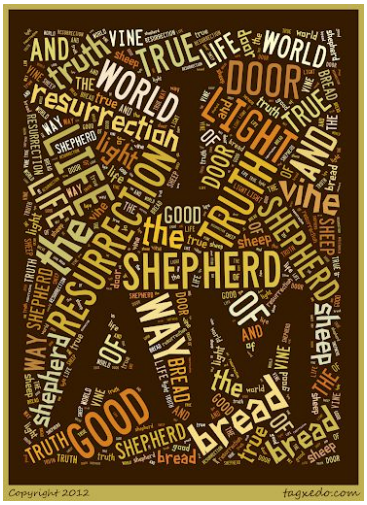

JESUS SAID, "I AM THE…"

A STUDY IN ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION (To be read before the first session)

The Gospel of according to John is so called as it was written around AD80 by an author who may be the beloved disciple, but it may have been by one of ***his*** disciples. By AD80 John must have been over 60 years of age if the Resurrection was AD33, then the gospel is written about 40 years later. Unlike the first 3 gospels, written much earlier, John's is carefully constructed and deeply theological.

It has the following sections:

* Prologue Ch1 1-14
* Book of signs Ch.1.15- Ch. 17
* Passion/resurrection narrative Ch. 18-20
* Epilogue Ch. 21

St John cleverly interweaves 7 **I AM** passages with **7 SIGNS** that shows :-
"Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,
and that through believing you may have life in his name." (Ch. 20.30)

The 7 "I am" passages:

1 I am the Bread of life (6.35)
2 I am the Light of the world (8.12)
3 I am the Door of the sheep (10.7)
4 I am the Good Shepherd (10.11)
5 I am the Resurrection and the Life (11.25)
6 I am the True Vine (15.1)
7 I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (14.6)

In the Gospel there are seven miracles chosen by St. John as "signs" which convey the especial truth of Christ's work that:
"Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,
and that through believing you may have life in his name." (Ch. 20.30)

1 Turning water into wine: (2.1-11)	I am the true vine
2 The healing of the nobleman's son:(4.46-54)	I am the way etc...
3 The healing of the impotent man: (5.2-9	I am the good shepherd
4 The feeding of the five thousand: (6.4-13)	I am the Bread of life
5 The walking on the water: (6.16-21)	I am the door of the etc..
6 The healing of the man born blind: (9.1-7)	I am the light of the world
7 The raising of Lazarus: (11.1-44)	I am the resurrection -etc

It is significant that the 7 signs, and the 7 I am's are linked. In the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark & Luke tell of many miracles. But John chooses just 7 which indicates that they have a meaning beyond themselves conveying a special truth about himself. *(see above)*