

## "I am Thine".

Bad news for those who watch clock, my reading from Psalm 119. Good news, only a short phrase. Psalm 119. 94. One of six "I am"s; v. 19 (far world concerned, a stranger in earth), v. 63 (brethren/saints, companion fear), v. 107 (circs, afflicted very much), v. 125 (God, servant), v. 141 (foes, small and despised); v. 94 (I, Thine).

Can be (a) source great joy, comfort, sense belonging, warmth, encouragement : "My beloved mine", "I am my beloved's and my beloved's mine", "I am ... and his desire towards", Song of Songs 2. 16; 6. 3; 7. 10. Consciously His, special object love and care.

Or (b) pledge of allegiance, devotion; Bej/Jud, Amasai, fortress (Adullum?), "Thine are we, David, and on side, son of Jesse", 1 Chron. 12. 18.

Consider as (c) recognition, acknowledgement of ownership, possession. Lord's many claims on me. Bad news, like dragon and beast out of sea (Revelation 12,13) message have 7 heads.

At least seven grounds on which/ reasons can be said to legitimately own something. I say 'legitimately' to exclude the theft or gambling. Someone can say, "That's mine because : (i) **"I made it"**. School project, wooden fire-screen. Left lot desired, frank something of disaster. More suited on fire than front. Mine, till mother threw out, act kindness. (ii) **"I bought it"**. Odd in time, imitation skull, cheap, appealed and not have one. (iii) **"I inherited it"**. Not much: ¼ of ancestral home, graced with name of Splott, do no good, brother lives, last night, squatter. (iv) **"I found it"**. Wife in garden, Chinese vase, dragons, inverted swastika base, exciting, alas, about £12, probably loft. (v) **"I worked for it"**. Pay-slip, Jacob for girl he loved, Rachel, labour 14 years, no joke, Laban, by day drought, night frost, sleep depart eyes. Seven years seem few days for love. (vi) **"I fought for it"**. Men for titles, crowns, kingdoms, glory. David fought for hand of beautiful girl he loved. Tackle 100/200 Philistines, "Michal David's wife", 1 Sam. 19. 11. His. (vii) **"I was given it"**. Christmas, sister disgrace, head polishing kit. I'm working on forgiving her.

Lord lay claim on me on each score.

1. **"I made it"**. Fire-screen. "All things/not one thing", John 1.3; all "became", He "was". "All things created in Him", to farthest galaxy in universe, Col.1.16. More to point, personal, "Fearfully and wonderfully made", Psa 139. Justin, pre-natal scan. "Thine eyes saw my substance unperfect" - embryo. "My substance/bones not hid from thee, when I was 'made' (not Adam) in secret. Curiously wrought (woven, embroidered)". Complex network of bones, arteries, veins, muscles, nerves and the lymphatic system. Every cell body comprises hundreds of trillions cells, each stored/coded more information than all volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica together. Made me therefore His.

2. **"I bought it"**. Imitation skull. "Not own ... price", 1 Cor 6.19-20. Slave save temple, amass, priest pay master name of god. Then nominally property of god, free men. Inscription Temple of Apollo, Delphi, "Apollo Pythian *bought* from Sosibus of Amphisa for freedom a slave girl whose name is Nicea *with a price* of 3½ minae of silver". Legal fiction protect. Rev. 5. 9 (4 + 24 = "Thou worthy take scroll, open seals, bought for God by blood out every tribe, tongue, people, nation"). See merchant, Matt. 13. 44, 45, beautiful, fine; value, price, "sold all he had" and "bought". Ransom, Mark 10. 45 (life); "mediator gave self ransom for all", 1 Tim 2. 6 (1,4). Cntr Prov. 21. 18, "wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous"; cf Isa. 43. 3 (Egypt, gave men, people life; half continent). Redemption - empty/futile way of life, 1 Pet. 1. 18, or iniquity, Tit. 2. 14 (look blessed hope). Price = blood, life, self, all had. Bought me therefore His.

3. **"I inherited it"**. Tit. 2. 14 "ransom, redeem iniquity, purify for self people possession". "Bare eagles wings, brought self. Now if obey voice, keep covenant, shall be peculiar treasure to me above all people", Exod. 19. 5. "Eyes understanding enlightened know ... riches", Eph. 1. 18; commentators differ, see no reason not His in us. Certainly Israel; "Lord's portion is His people, Israel lot of inheritance", Deut. 32. 9; "Blessed is nation whose God is Lord and the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance", Psa. 33. 12; "Isr is the tribe of His inheritance", Jer 10.16. I.e. law, Psa, prophets. People had land as inheritance but they God's. Eph. 1. 11 (obtained), 14 (earnest); but 18 = we His? He is heir of all things, Heb. 1. 2: of Israel, the nations, Psa. 2. 8 ("ask Me") and us. Preciousness to God. I part of His inheritance therefore His.

4. **"I found it"**. The Chinese vase. "found him Moses in law ... son of Joseph", John 1. 45; "Jesus would go into Galilee and findeth Philip", v. 43. We found because lost. Luke 15 gospel in grumble

(receives); defend joy; lost = found x3. Ezek. 34. 11, 16, "search, and seek my sheep, seek that which lost". But national, flock scattered countries, nations. Lord stress individual; "lose one of them", 4. "I was lost but Jesus found me". "None of ransomed ever knew". Son of man come seek and save lost, Luke 19. 10 (Zacc 'sought' to 'see' (5) Jesus). Found me therefore His.

5. **"I worked for it"**. Jacob; now well. Water not well; food not city. "Master, eat, I food know not, any brought, My food will sent and finish work", John 4. 34. "Glorified Thee (first, matter most), finished work", John 17. 3. Crowd = "If Son of God, come down cross"; CP,S,E, = "If he is King of Israel, let down", "Doing great work, cannot come down. Why work cease?", Neh. 6. 3. Gen. 2. 1 (Thus H&E, and host). Take more than word. Worked for me therefore His.

6. **"I fought for it"**. "Spoil (put off, disarm) princip & authorities, make public spectacle of them, triumphing over in cross", Col. 2. 15. Triumphant procession of victorious Roman general, emperor. "Forasmuch ... through death", Heb. 2. 14; confront, face Devil in own domain, render ineffective, put out commission, him responsible, introduce death, broke grip, snatch keys of death and hades and rose dead. Lion prevailed, overcome, triumphed, Rev. 5. 5. "King also himself crossed over brook Kidron", 2 Sam. 15. 23; betrayed Ahithophel, loyal Ittai, "live, place, death, life". "Rise up, let us flee", v 14. Escape. "Jesus went forth with disciples across brook Kidron, where garden", John 18. 4. Know all come. Judas with, own familiar friend, eat bread, heel, John 13.18; Psa. 41. 9. Peter "ready go prison, death". "Rise up, let us go", John 14. 31. Used as military term, to march forward, advance. Confront. Fight not flee. Victor. David had his men to help. Lord fought alone for me therefore His.

7. **"I was given it"**. My head-polishing kit. "All Father gives, come, by no means cast out. Came heaven not do own but will sent; this is will sent, of all given lose none and raise last day", John 6. 37-38. "Give sheep ... pluck (snatch, seize, as wolf + scatter), Father gave them me greater than all", 10. 29. Prayer of ch 17 = x7; eg "manifest name men gave; thine were and gavest them me", v 6. Father's in eternal purpose and counsel. How value as great love-gift from Father. Given therefore His.

Israel = "Thus saith Lord, created thee, O Jacob; and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine", Isa. 43. 1. Claims on us more wide-ranging, broadly-based. **By creation, purchase, inheritance, search, toil, conquest, gift.** No room manoeuvre; hemmed in every direction. Only reasonable response; Neither sun nor stars many days. All hope lost. Should hearken. Cheer up, no loss of life, but ship. Stood by me this night angel of God whose am and serve, say, "Fear not, Paul, must before Caesar, and God given all sail with you". So cheer up, for I believe God, Acts 27. 20-25. "Am and serve" – latter word has flavour of worship.