

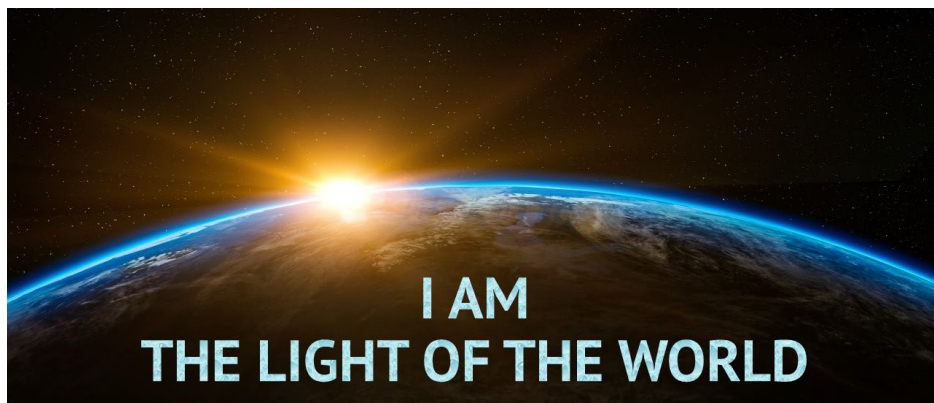
“I am the Light of the World”

John 8.12-20

At the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus was in the temple teaching. Crowds hung on His every word, but opposition was intensifying. Jesus openly proclaims His deity. The hostility explodes at the end of John 8! It begins today with Jesus claim, “I am the Light of the world.”

- “I am the Light of the world...” (12)
 - The Feast of Tabernacles and the wilderness wandering
 - God the source of light (Gen. 1.3; Ps. 27.1; 119.105; Prov. 6.23)
 - God the source of light (Isa. 60.19-20; Zech. 14.5b-7))
 - Messiah will be a light to those in darkness (Isa. 9.2; 49.6)
 - Jesus is the Light (John 1.4-5, 9; 3.19-21)
- Response #1: “You’re a liar!” (13-18)
- Response #2: “Where is your Father?” (19-20)

*“Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is.
If you knew me, you would also know my Father.”*
Jesus to the Pharisees, John 8.19 (NLT)



1. We don’t know for sure, but it is likely that the dialogues between Jesus and His Jewish interlocutors in John 8 and 9 took place soon after the Feast of Tabernacles – perhaps starting on the closing day of festivities. The daily ceremony of lighting the huge oil lamps in the Court of the Women (called “the treasury” because of the horn-shaped receptacles for monetary offerings) provided a backdrop for Jesus’ words, “I am the Light of the world!” What can you find out about the lighting ceremony? What did it commemorate? How does this illuminate (pun intended) Jesus/ meaning?
2. The biblical tie between God and light begins in the very beginning and continues to the very end! Look up the Scriptures listed on the sermon outline. How would these links to God and the Messiah as “light” have pointed to the full meaning of Jesus’ words? Jesus said those who follow (believe in) Him “will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.” How does believing in Jesus provide us “light” to live in a spiritually dark world? How might this relate to Jesus instruction for ‘kingdom living’ in Matthew 5.14-16?
3. It is interesting how people who are living a lie tend to accuse others of lying! The Pharisees call Jesus a liar for claiming to be the Light of the world – but they are reduced to this *ad hominem* attack since they refuse to believe the undeniable evidence of His miracles! How does Jesus affirm the truth of His testimony in vv14-18? What is He telling them? Try to put His response in your own words.
4. The brief exchange between the Pharisees and Jesus in vv19-20 is so revealing! Why did they ask Jesus, “Where is your Father?” What is the full implication of their question (see 8.41b)? Since they reject Him as the Son of God, they don’t know His Father (God), either. There are many agnostics (we can’t know if there is a God or not) and deists (God exists, but is distant and unknowable) in the world: Notice how Jesus’ words concerning Himself solve the ‘unknown’ or ‘unknowable’ God problem. Recognizing who Jesus is reveals who God is. Conversely, those who reject Jesus as the Son of God will not know God. Tell people about Jesus!