

Jesus is The Light of the World

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

True Equity and the Greatest Love / John 8:12–30

The Light of life and the death of doubt; one of these will be yours. Which one will you choose this day?

Notes

06/23 John 8:12-30, "Jesus is the Light of the World," Subtitle: The war between light and darkness, Scripture: 2 Cor. 6:14-18

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v. 12

The Seven "I am's:"

1. "I am" the Bread of life (John 6:35, 48, 51)
2. "I am" the Light of the world (John 8:12)
3. "I am" the Door of the sheep (John 10:7, 9)
4. "I am" the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14)
5. "I am" the Resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
6. "I am" the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
7. "I am" the True Vine (John 15:1, 5)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world.'
This is the second of **seven different 'I am' sayings with predicates in the**

Fourth Gospel (6:35, 48, 51; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5). Jesus' claim to be 'the light of the world' was made against the background of another Jewish practice at the Feast of Tabernacles, the great candle-lighting ceremonies that took place each night except on an intervening sabbath[1]

A passage from the Mishnah (*Sukkah* 5:2–3) describes these ceremonies:

At the close of the first Festival-day of the Feast they went down to the Court of the Women where they had made a great amendment. There were golden candlesticks there with four golden bowls on the top of them and four ladders to each candlestick, and four youths of the priestly stock and in their hands jars of oil holding a hundred and twenty *logs* which they poured into all the bowls. They made wicks from the worn out drawers and girdles of the priests and with them they set the candlesticks alight, and there was not a courtyard in Jerusalem that did not reflect the light of the Beth ha-She'ubah.

[1, 2, 3]Colin G. Kruse, *John: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 4, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 201.

Follow Jesus and you will have the Light of life that will lead you safely through the wilderness to the place of promise (John 8:12-20)

Jesus presented himself as the light of the world at the Feast of Tabernacles; a festival during which great candles lit up the courtyards of Jerusalem every night[2]

It had its roots in OT prophecies, especially Isaiah 42:6; 49:6 and 51:4, which speak of the Servant of the Lord, and indeed the Lord himself, as the light to the nations (world).[3]

[1, 2, 3]Colin G. Kruse, *John: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 4, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 201.

v. 13-20

According to rabbinic teaching, testimony to oneself was not valid in law; only testimony by another could be accepted. In the Mishnah, for example, we read, 'So, too, if there were two men and one said, "I am a priest", and the other said, "I am a priest", they may not be believed; but when they testify thus of each other they may be believed' (*Ketubot* 2:7). The Pharisees accused Jesus of bearing testimony to himself.[1]

- [1]Colin G. Kruse, *John: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 4, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 201–202.

Even though He didn't have to, it is important to see that Jesus even fulfills the requirement of their Mishnah.

v. 20

9 References to Jesus' hour coming:

- Not yet come (John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20)
- Has come (John 12:23; 12:27 [2x's]; John 13:1; 16:32; 17:1)

They did not seize Him, because God's appointed time, according to His eternal decree, had not yet come. No other explanation was required. In Gen. 3:15, God promised that time would come, but it had not yet arrived.

Believe in who Jesus is or you will die in your sins (unforgiven, John 8:21-29)

Jesus was both Messiah and Yahweh Himself.

John 3:16 "16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:36 "36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.""

Unbelief is the "unpardonable sin" of Mark 3:22–30 and **Matthew** 12:22–32

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