

John 8:12ff.
July 19, 1987
Rome Georgia
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Subject: The witness of Jesus as to His Identity and Role.

Theme: The validity of Jesus Claim.

Proposition: The Pharisees needed more proof than the testimony of Jesus.

Because of the skepticism of the ruling elite, Jesus warns them that they will die in their sins, vv. 21 and 24. The testimony of God is true. The testimony of Christ is true. Believe it - or die in your sins.

Not a matter of see and believe - But rather Believe and see. Cf. 6:30.

John 6:30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, **that we may see, and believe** thee? what dost thou work?

Mat 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, **An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**

I. THE PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT

II. THE PURPOSE OF LIGHT

III. THE POSSESSION OF LIGHT

Short Review:

Cf. with 7:37 where, as the priest daily drew water in a golden pitcher from the Gihon Spring. As he drew the water the choir sang **Isaiah 12:3**

"Therefore with Joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation" **Isaiah 12:3**

He then returned to the temple and poured out the water on the alter. This ritual was to remind the Jews of the "**water from the rock**" which God provided for His people in the **wilderness wanderings**.

IT ALSO SPOKE PROPHETICALLY OF THE COMING DAYS OF MESSIAH.

And **now, Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles**, stands, and cries in a loud voice, SPEAKING TO HIS PEOPLE, THE JEWS, **IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR REMEMBRANCE OF PAST MERCIES AND WITH THEIR VIEW TOWARD THE COMING MESSIAH,**

"IF ANY MAN THIRST, LET HIM COME UNTO ME, AND DRINK"

An unmistakable claim to being the Messiah! The water of salvation from which the nation of Israel could draw.

And now in v. **12**, **another part of the feast was taking place.**

"A major **feature of the Feast of Tabernacles was the lighting of giant lamps in the women's court in the temple.** The wicks were made from the priest's worn out garments. The light illuminated the area and the people gathered to sing praises and dance. The light reminded the Jewish people of how God was with them in their wanderings in the wilderness in a pillar of cloud which turned to fire at night. (**Numbers 9:15-23**)

Again, in the context of the things that the symbolic actions portrayed, Jesus again speaks "**I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**" As significant as this is to us today, can you imagine what ran through the peoples mind as they were engaged in their greatest celebration of the year, **remembering how God had been their Light and Salvation in the Wilderness, in this setting Jesus speaks and informs them that HE "IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."**

READ ALL OF 12

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

JESUS MAKES A PROCLAMATION THAT HE IS THE LIGHT

I. THE PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT

" I am the light of the world "

(cf. 8: 26-27 where Jew is specifically identified as part of the world! "I Speak to the world..." He spoke to them.)

Joh 8:26 **I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.**

Joh 8:27 They understood not that he **spake to them** of the Father.

THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF THE **GOSPEL OF JOHN:1:4** READ 1:5 READ

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the **life was the light of men.**

Joh 1:5 And the **light shineth** in darkness; and the darkness **comprehended it not.**

This is the message that JTB proclaimed! **1:6-8**

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

Joh 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the **Light**, that all *men* through him might believe.

Joh 1:8 **He was not that Light**, but *was sent* to bear witness of that **Light**.

NOT ONE OF MANY! BUT THE TRUE LIGHT.

Joh 1:9 *That* was the true **Light**, which **lighteth every man that cometh into the world.**

WHY IS IT SO SIGNIFICANT THAT JESUS CLAIMED TO BE **LIGHT** AND DID SO AT A TIME WHEN THE JEWS WERE CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES WHICH WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMEMBERING **THEIR TRUE LIGHT, JEHOVAH GOD?**

1 Jn. 1:5 - GOD IS LIGHT

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.

The Jew Knew this.

SAUL, THE SELF RIGHTEOUS, MURDERING JEW, KNEW THIS ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS WHEN IN A **BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT**, HE CAME INTO **CONTACT WITH THE LIVING GOD WHO IS LIGHT!**

Acts 9:3ff.

Act 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there **shined round about him a light from heaven:**

Act 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?**

Act 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

Act 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

Well, if the Jew knew that God was light, and that Jesus was here claiming to be light, what was the problem?

John 3:19-21 READ.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that **light** is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil **hateth the light**, neither cometh to the **light**, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

Joh 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the **light**, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

**THIS WAS THE PHARISEES PROBLEM. THEY HATED THE TRUE LIGHT - BECAUSE THEIR INNER MAN WAS IN DARKNESS!
WHEN THE LIGHT OF JESUS SHONE - THEN THEIR TRUE NATURE SHOWED.**

13 "YOU ARE A LIAR" (in essence) **John 8:13** The **Pharisees therefore said unto him**, Thou bearest record of thyself; **thy record is not true.**

The **Mosaic law required 2 witnesses** in all capitol offences. The **Rabbinic tradition** went Moses one better in **trying to improve God's law** by stating that in all uncorroborated self testimony was to be disallowed.

14 Jesus points out why His testimony was true. He is the only one who can testify as to His true origin. **Only God can reveal God.** (as per questions asked of **John 7:28-29** Jesus' origin.)

Joh 8:14 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell** whence I come, and whither I go.

15 At the very best the Pharisees were only able to judge based on their observations of Jesus in His incarnate state.

The statement on Judgement is in harmony with the Gospel. Jesus did not come to judge in His [first Advent](#). Cf. **3:17**.

Joh 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

In the future, His judgement will be executing the Father's will according to Law and Truth. **5:25** and **27**. **Joh 5:25** Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

Joh 5:26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

Joh 5:27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

16 Just as His judgement could be true because it was from the Father, so to His witness concerning His true Identity was true because again, He is One with the Father.

17-18 YOUR LAW = Rabbinic tradition. But if that is what it takes to convince you, then here are your TWO WITNESSES. I and MY FATHER that sent me.

*"If they insisted on having two witnesses, it was not difficult for Him to produce them. First of all, He bore **witness** of Himself by His **sinless life and by the words that came out of His mouth**. Secondly, **the Father bore witness** to the Lord Jesus by **His public statements from heaven and by the miracles which He gave the Lord to do**. **Christ fulfilled the prophecies of the OT concerning the Messiah, and yet in face of this strong evidence, the Jewish leaders were unwilling to believe.**" **BBC (Believers Bible Commentary)***

19 "Where is thy father? Cf. **5:18**."

Joh 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but **also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

Jesus has already made His unique claim as to whom His Father was.

THEIR IGNORANCE OF JESUS, SHOWED THEIR IGNORANCE OF GOD! You don't know who my father is because you will not acknowledge who I am!

John addresses this elsewhere in I Jn. 2:23 "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father; He that confesseth the Son hath the Father also."

These religious leaders of the day were **denying the LIGHT because they Loved darkness more than light!** But in a way, that was OK. Because "JESUS CAME TO SAVE THE LOST"

THAT IS THE:

II. PURPOSE OF THE LIGHT

These men, like all men, were in darkness! They were hopelessly lost. Yet LIGHT came to them!

"HEREIN IS LOVE. NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS." **1 Jn. 4:10**

Jesus tells them in **John 8:12** "**I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

"When do men need a light? When they are in darkness! **ISAIAH CHAPTER 9.**

Isa 9:2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

“Isaiah 9:1-5 Now we are carried forward to the coming of the Messiah. The northern territory of Israel, called **the land of Naphtali**, which had been brought into contempt by the invaders, will be made glorious. (**Galilee of the Gentiles** was the Savior's boyhood home and the scene of part of His public ministry.) Christ's First Advent brought **light** to Galilee. His Second Coming will bring **joy** to the nation and put an end to slavery and war.” BBC

(SEE also **AMOS 8:9-12**) GREAT DARKNESS. ASSYRIANS ABOUT TO DESCEND AND DESTROY!

ENCOURAGEMENT IN **Isaiah 9:2** THE PEOPLE THAT WALKED IN DARKNESS (gentiles) HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT....

BUT THIS WAS THE JEWS, A LONG TIME BEFORE, AND LOOKING TO A FUTURE EVENT. BUT SEE **MATT. 4:12 - 16**. **THIS CLEARLY STATES THAT IS. 9.2 WAS A REFERENCE TO JESUS.**

Mat 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,

Mat 4:14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Mat 4:15 "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES:

Mat 4:16 THE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT, AND UPON THOSE WHO SAT IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH LIGHT HAS DAWNED."

JESUS IS THAT LIGHT THAT GOD PROMISED HIS PEOPLE A THOUSAND YEARS EARLIER!

AND HE CAME TO HIS PEOPLE AND HE ATTENDED THE FEASTS AND HE SAID AT THE TIME OF THE WATER "I AM THE WATER." AND AT THE TIME OF THE LIGHT HE SAID, "I AM THE LIGHT."

WHY? BECAUSE AS JESUS SAYS IN **Matt. 5:17**

"THINK NOT THAT I AM COME TO DESTROY THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS; I AM NOT COME TO DESTROY, BUT TO FULFILL!" Matt. 5:17

AND TO THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HE EXTENDS HIS FREE OFFER OF SALVATION

"HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE!" John 8:12:b

BUT THE EXTENSION OF ITS OFFER IS NOT WITHOUT LIMITS! THERE IS A **SEASON OF SALVATION** FOR THESE MEN - AS THERE IS FOR EACH OF US HERE TODAY. **JN. 12:35-36.**

Joh 12:35 Then Jesus said to them, **"A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.**

Joh 12:36 **While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."** These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

"YET A LITTLE WHILE"....

HE MADE A PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT AND THEN HE GAVE THE PURPOSE OF LIGHT

12:46 READ **I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.**

AND THEN HE MAKES A PROMISE TO THOSE WHO POSSES THE LIGHT

III. THE POSSESSION OF LIGHT

Those that follow, believe, obey Him, these shall have the light of life and will no longer be doomed to grope about in darkness.

Freed from the bondage of darkness **12:46**

Joh 12:46 **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.**

Able now to Walk in the Light as He is in the Light - BECAUSE WE POSSES THE LIGHT AND ARE POSSESSED BY THE LIGHT! **I JN. 1:6-7.**

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1Jn 1:7 But if **we walk in the light, as he is in the light**, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

David knew of the Light of God and rejoiced in it. **PS. 36:7-9.**

How excellent *is* thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

For with thee *is* the fountain of life: **in thy light shall we see light.** . **PS. 36:7-9**

"IN THY LIGHT WE SHALL SEE LIGHT!"

The Two Miracles of Nature Some Israelis Say Protected Them During the Gaza Fighting

Aug. 5, 2014 1:46pm [Sharona Schwartz](#)

Israelis have reported experiencing two miracles of nature which protected them during the fighting with Hamas in Gaza.

Col. Ofer Winter, an **Israel Defense Forces** brigade commander who is a **religious Jew**, attributed the way his soldiers were protected in Gaza to a **divine miracle**.

In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Mishpacha, Winter described the unusual occurrence that might have come straight out of the Bible. The Times of Israel [reported](#): He said that a predawn raid that was intended to make use of the dark as concealment was delayed, forcing the soldiers to move toward their objective as the sun was about to rise. The soldiers were in danger of being revealed in the light but, Winter recalled, a heavy fog descended to cover their movements until the objective was achieved.

“Suddenly a cloud protected us,” he said, make a reference to the clouds that the Bible says protected the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. “Clouds of glory.”

Only when the soldiers were in a secure position did the fog dissipate, he said.

“It really was a fulfillment of the verse ‘For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to give you victory,’” Winter said, referring to Deuteronomy.

The experience was also reminiscent of the [pillar of cloud](#) that protected the Israelites as they escaped from Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, as described in the book of Exodus.

A second miracle was reported by a group of religious Jews who in early July, right before the fighting broke out, **traveled to southern Israel to harvest wheat in advance of the biblical sabbatical year. According to the biblical mandate, Jews are supposed to allow the land of Israel to rest during the entire final year of the seven-year agricultural cycle which begins next month and is observed on Israeli farms. That means no planting or harvesting occurs for the year.**

Aharon Samet told the Israeli radio show “Upside Down” that a great miracle occurred thanks to the fact that they had to harvest more wheat than usual to comply with the biblical mandate.

“This year we are before the **sabbatical year**, and we need to **harvest wheat for two years**. We plowed the land up and down looking for wheat that was **sown late** what with the rains that fell late this year,” Samet said. “On Kibbutz Sufa on the Gaza border we found an entire field that was sown in mid-January, which is considered very unusual.”

They harvested the wheat and didn’t give it another thought.

Only weeks later when the fighting between Israel and Hamas was at its peak did Samet and his friends realize the significance of their actions.

On July 17, [13 Hamas militants infiltrated from Gaza via a tunnel into Israel](#) at the exact spot near Kibbutz Sufa where the men had been farming.

The terrorists were shocked to discover that their natural camouflage – the giant wheat field that they were counting on – had disappeared.

The now empty field allowed IDF surveillance to spot them as they **emerged from their holes** and to repel their attack by dropping a bomb on them from above.

“Many lives were saved by the grace of Heaven,” the [Israeli radio station Kol Hai](#) commented.

Of the events he experienced, brigade commander Winter concluded, “When a person is in a life-threatening situation he connects with his deepest internal truths, and when that happens, even the biggest atheist meets God.” Soldiers experience so many miracles that “it is hard not to believe [in God],” Winter said.