

# Jesus - the Light of the World

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John 8:12

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## **A Final Observation on 7:53-8:11**

- Without the account of the woman caught in adultery text is jumpy
- If we go from 7:52 directly into 8:12... Jesus jumps on an angry council
- if we keep text, after failed attempts to arrest Jesus<sup>7:44,45</sup> and Nicodemus' call for reason<sup>7:50</sup> and attack on him<sup>7:52</sup> they each stop for the night<sup>7:53</sup> such that when Jesus again teaches in the temple they bring the woman to trap him
- Now 8:12 makes sense... *again Jesus spoke to them*<sup>8:12</sup> ... *in the temple*<sup>8:20</sup>

## **Jesus' Declarations**

- At Feast of Booths<sup>7:2</sup> given by God<sup>Lev23:33-44</sup> followed by convocation<sup>Lev7:36</sup>
- Feast filled w/ ceremonies of remembrance from Exodus wanderings...
  - Water drawn from pool of Siloam, poured out on altar while priests and people sang & chanted<sup>Isa12:3;Psalm114:7-8</sup> = *if anyone thirsts...living water*<sup>7:37-38</sup>
  - Jesus' claim to deity caused consternation<sup>7:44</sup>
- Jesus once again openly teaching in the temple<sup>8:12,20</sup>
  - end of the Feast of Booths - remembrance of God's provision<sup>Lev23:33-44</sup>
  - another ceremony: festival of lights: 4 great candelabras - cast light over every quarter of the city
  - a remembrance of how God's cloud of fire protected & led Israel

## **I Am the Light of the World**

- Jesus now declared: *I am the light of the world*<sup>8:12</sup>...
- "I am" - *ego emi* echos God's declaration to Moses<sup>Ex3:14</sup> - claim to deity!
- Jesus has used 3 wilderness images from Israel's history
  - John 6 - *I am the Bread of Life* = Manna
  - John 7 - *if anyone thirsts come to me... living water* = water from rock
  - John 8 - *I am the Light of the World* = cloud of God's presence

## **The OT imagery found in 'I am the Light of the World'**

### God's Presence

- God provided cloud after He rescued Israel<sup>Ex13:21-22</sup>
- People knew God was with them
- Cloud provided comfort shade<sup>Isa4:5-6</sup> and protection/light by night<sup>Ex13:22</sup>
- God's presence went with people, tabernacle, then later temple<sup>1K8:10-11;2Chr5:14</sup>
- Sadly cloud of God's presence departed<sup>Ezek10-11</sup> from Israel
- God still promised His covenant faithfulness<sup>Ezek11:19-20</sup> *new heart... new spirit...*
- Jesus: *Word become flesh and tabernacled among us*<sup>Jn1:14!</sup>

### God's Protection

- God's cloud protected His people at Red Sea<sup>Ex14:19-20;21;30-31</sup>
- Cloud led and protected people from intense heat of day & light for night
- Jesus: *whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have light of life*

### God's Guidance

- God led His people by the cloud<sup>Ex13:21</sup>
- He directed them through the wilderness<sup>Num9:17-18</sup>
- Jesus: *whoever follows me will not walk in darkness...*

## **Jesus' Words from OT Images**

- Jesus is Light of the World - salvation<sup>Gal 4:4-5</sup>, truth
- Jesus is God with us - just as cloud showed God's presence to Israel
- As we follow Jesus we no longer walk in darkness but holiness by Spirit<sup>Jn14:26</sup>