

**PIERCING THE DARKNESS:
“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”
KNOWING JESUS SERIES**

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TEXT: John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life.”

John 12:36 “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light...”

John 12:46 “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

The Bible speaks of darkness covering the earth. Even deep darkness, but God says that there is hope. The Light of the world has come. Light is always greater than darkness. That Light gives life. He has come to give us life and give it to us abundantly. The first thing that Jesus created was light. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)... and in verse 3, He said, “Let there be light!”

Regarding the place and the time of year when Jesus says, “I am the Light of the world,” Jesus is in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. This is around six months before He would die on the cross and rise again. This Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkoth, is to celebrate God’s faithfulness during the 40 years in the wilderness. People were to commemorate this feast by living in booths or manmade tents on top of their roofs, and for all the Israelites to come to Jerusalem to eat, dance, and worship. We see how Jesus uses the occasion and location to teach eternal truths (e.g., Caesarea Philippi, the Samaritan woman at the well, etc.).

One of the traditions in the Feast of Tabernacles is that the Priest would take water from the pool of Siloam and pour it over the laver in the Outer Court. The Priest would cite passages in the Torah of how God provided water in the wilderness. So, Jesus uses that occasion and says in **John 7:37** **Now on the last day** [the feast was eight days long, **Leviticus 23:36**], **the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.** Obviously, John is referring to the

Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the 120 in the Upper Room.

Another tradition that they had was to light these huge torches that were in the Court of Women, every night for eight days. At night the Temple was lit up by the torches in the Outer Court. They were lit until dawn the next morning. This is also where the treasury was located. This is the place where Jesus notices the widow giving her two coins. This where the money changers were located as well. Thirteen receptacles that looked like large shofars were placed around the Court of the Women. You placed your coins in for purchasing two doves, wood for the sacrifice, as well as paying the Temple taxes and other expenses.

On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, in the evening, while the place is packed, Jesus gets up and makes this amazing statement: “I am the Light of the world!” To the Jewish leaders, it is an outrageous statement. They know what He is stating. Let me unpack what I believe that Jesus is saying about Himself. When Jesus says, “I am the Light of the world,” it means five things in the context of the Gospel of John:

Jesus Is Saying: **(1) I Am The Messiah, The Savior Of The World, (2) I Am God Almighty, (3) I Am Here To Pierce The Darkness And Destroy The Works Of The Devil, (4) I Am Here To Guide You Through The Holy Spirit, (5) I Am Making You The Light Of The World.**

I. “I AM THE MESSIAH, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD”

A. The Word prophesies that the Messiah will be a Light to the nations.

1. **Isaiah 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put *My Spirit* upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations... 6 “I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness... And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations.”**
2. **Isaiah 49:6 “I will also make You [Jesus] a light of the nations...”**
3. **Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine; for your Light has come! And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will appear upon you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising...”**
4. **John 1:9 The true light, which gives light to *everyone*, was coming into the *world*. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him... 12 But to *all* who did receive**

him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

5. Please note how inclusive Jesus is. He gives light to everyone... He gives light to the world... all who did receive him, who believe in His name, not only those who become born again and have their sins forgiven, but He also gives the world the right to become children of God! God so loved the world; He desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

II. "I AM GOD ALMIGHTY"

A. THE TETRAGRAMMATON

1. Last week we looked at the first of seven "I am" statements/metaphors that Jesus made about Himself. The first one being "I am the Vine." We are not going in a specific order. We are allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us based on what the Spirit of God is doing and emphasizing each week. The statement "I am" goes back to Moses' encounter with God through the burning bush.
2. **Exodus 3:2** The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. **3** So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this *marvelous sight*, why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
3. **Exodus 3:13** Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
4. *Tetragrammaton* means "four" - *tetra*, "letters" - *grammaton*. What are the four letters? **YHWH**. **YHWH** comes from the Hebrew word *hayah*, to be. "I am who I am." *Hayah hayah*.
5. Each time Jesus says, "I am," in the Gospel of John, He is saying that He is the YHWH who appeared to Moses.

6. Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my *light* and my *salvation*, whom shall, I fear?
7. 1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that *God is Light*, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
8. James 1:17 Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the *Father of lights*, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. Of course, the perfect gift coming from the Father of Lights is Jesus, who is Good and is the Light of the world.
9. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

III. "I AM HERE TO PIERCE THE DARKNESS AND TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL"

- A. John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life."
 1. John 12:46 "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness."
 2. Light is greater than darkness. 1 John 3:8 Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
 3. The main way that He destroyed the works of the devil and darkness is through the Cross.
 4. Colossians 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
 5. 1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, *we lie and do not practice the truth*; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 6. Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

7. Darkness is sin, doing evil, telling lies, and practicing immorality. What John says about being in darkness is when we lie and do not practice the truth in 1 John 1:6. What is worse is that Isaiah says we are so deceived we call good “evil” and evil “good.”
8. **Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness...”**
9. **John 3:19 And this is the judgment: the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil.**
10. For example: “The Equality Act” - a euphemism, it sounds good. Who doesn’t want equality? But it is anything but equality. Boys will be allowed to compete in women’s sports. They may have gender dysphoria, but the truth is that they are biological men, and it will be an end to women’s sports. These transgender men need compassion, but we can’t let them compete in female organized sports because they will relegate some of these young women to the bench and essentially cast them out of a sport that they may have trained all their lives to get a scholarship or play professionally.
11. **Romans 1:25 “They have exchanged the truth of God for a lie...”**

IV. “I WILL GUIDE YOU IN LIFE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT”

A. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD PROVIDES GUIDANCE (I can talk about how the light of joy destroys depression; the light of God is the favor of God. But our context is the Feast of Tabernacles, and we see how God guided the Israelites with the pillar of fire by night.)

1. **Nehemiah 9:12 “And with a pillar of cloud You led them by day, and with a pillar of fire by night to light for them the way in which they were to go.**
2. **Isaiah 42:16 “I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains... and I will not leave them undone.”**

3. **John 8:12** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the Light of life.”
4. **John 16:12** “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...”

V. “I CALL YOU AS SONS OF THE LIGHT AND NOW YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

- A. John 12:36** “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light...”
1. **Matthew 5:14** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15** nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

CONCLUSION: BELIEVE IN THE LIGHT

John 12:36 “While you have the Light, *believe* in the Light, that you may become sons of Light...”

Will you believe in the Lord Jesus and totally surrender your life to Him?