



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 041: The "I Am" Statements of Jesus 2. The Light of the World

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Read John 1:1-9 and John 8:12.

Passage Introduction. This is the second "I Am" statement of Jesus*. It is likely that He was speaking on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, when candelabras were lit in the Temple court as a reminder of the light by which God led His people through the wilderness to the Promised Land (Exodus 13:21-22). Can you see parallels here with the work of Jesus?

1. The Lord God as a Light. Note what the following Old Testament characters said about His light. How do these identify Whom Jesus is declaring Himself to be and what He came to do? :

- (i) David (Psalm 27:1).
- (ii) Job (Job 29:3).
- (iii) Isaiah (Isaiah 60:19-20).

2. Light as Illumination. In the material world we rely on light to reveal what is around us. Think about how Jesus reveals aspects of the spiritual world. ("It is only in and through him that God's glorious attributes shine forth most brilliantly in the midst of the world." *William Hendriksen*)

3. The light of Knowledge. We also use the term 'light' to refer to knowledge, as in "That throws light on the matter", or "You have enlightened me". How is the life of Jesus the 'light of men' (John 1:12)?

To think about: Followers of Jesus have light to keep them from stumbling in darkness (John 12:35-36). He is the "true light" (John 1:12). Think about what 'light' you follow when the way ahead is 'dark' (see Isaiah 50:12-13).

To dig deeper: Trace references to 'light' in the Old Testament where it is used to denote the presence of God or associated with salvation (e.g. Exodus 13:21; Psalm 27:1, 36:9, 89:15; Isaiah 9:2, 60:19), and references throughout the Bible to walking in the light (e.g. Isaiah 2:5; John 12:35; 1 John 1:7). Think about how these might relate to Jesus.

* See Short Study 038 for an explanation of the "I Am" statements in general.