

John 8:12

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.”

John 9:1–5

¹ Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

² And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

⁴ I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

I Am the Light of the World ***John 8:12***

INTRO:

As we pick up the narrative in **John 8**, we find Jesus once again in the Temple teaching the people. As He teaches, He once again claimed to be deity in an amazing way. Everything in John’s Gospel is tied to John’s stated purpose in **John 20:30-31**, ***“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”*** John advances his theme by telling us about seven carefully selected miracles Jesus did, and through several ***“ego eimi,” “I AM,”*** statements Jesus made. These show us clearly Who He was and is.

In **John 6:35** we found the first of these statements when Jesus said, ***“I AM the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*** There Jesus claimed both to be the Self-Sufficient, eternal God, and to be the satisfaction for the needs of life. We find the second ***“ego eimi”*** statement Jesus made. This time Jesus said to the people, ***“I AM the light of the world.”***

I. What Does It Mean That Jesus Is The Light of The World?

II. How Can We Have This Light?

1. What Does It Mean That Jesus Is The Light of The World?

“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.’”(John 8:12).

A. First, we need to observe the form and recognize that the Lord Jesus structured his statement to be a claim of deity. In this statement our Lord Jesus echoed the revelation given to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**.

“Then Moses said to God, Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’”

In the Septuagint, I am who I am literally says, ***“I AM the one amming.”***

B. Why did Jesus say, ***“I am the light of the world?”*** To the casual listener this probably would mean nothing more than that Jesus claimed to be the sun shining in the Judean sky. He is the one giving light to the world. He claimed much more than this. Understand what He said. We need to understand a little bit about the subject of ***“light”*** in the Old Testament and in this book of John.

1. The Feast of Tabernacles, recorded in **John 7**, was tied intimately to light. Philo wrote, ***“The beginning of this festival is appointed for the fifteenth day of the month . . . that the world may be full . . . of the most beautiful light, the sun and moon on their rising opposite to one another with uninterrupted light, without any darkness interposing itself between so as to divide them.”*** The issue of light was important because this festival more than any other brought to mind the wilderness wanderings and the cloud that God gave by day and the pillar of fire by night. The Lord’s statement could have pointed to this phenomenon and claiming to be the fulfillment of this type. Like the Shekinah was your light by night in the wilderness, I am your light in the desert of life today.

2. Still, light meant much more than the Shekinah cloud to the Jews. They were taught to sing, **Psalm 27:1**,

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

So, here is a second reference to God being the light. In fact, in extra biblical Judaism the Messiah was sometimes referred to as ***“the Light.”*** Ironically, a verse that the Jews would not attribute to Christ, but which unquestionably applies to Him reads, (**Isaiah 49:6**) ***“Indeed He says, It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.”***

3. We see, then, the Old Testament says a lot about light. What was Jesus saying when He claimed to be ***“the light of the world?”*** Was He saying He was the Shekinah in the desert, the illumination of Israel, the Light to the Gentiles or Yahweh Himself? YES. He was laying claim to all of these things, because in one way or another they were true of Him!

C. Now add to this what John wrote about light in his Gospel. Remember in the prologue in **John 1:4-5** John spoke at length about light and Jesus.

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

This statement is significant because not only does it speak of light and darkness, it also connects light and life.

1. The light which Jesus is comes because of His divine life. ***“In Him life was,”*** not ***“came to be”*** as everything else came to be in **John 1:3**. It always was. He has life in Himself. This life is the light that shines out from Him.

2. The next phrase in **John 1:4** says so much about Him.

“The light is shining and continues to shine in darkness.”

The verb is a durative present. The light is right now shining and it continues to shine. Yet, ***“the darkness has not overcome it.”*** There was a time darkness tried to grasp the light which is the life of Jesus and overwhelm it, but it failed. That was at the cross. He was the light of the world in the sense that He made visible God’s glory to a world shrouded in the darkness of sin. Sin could not overcome Him.

D. What did Jesus mean when He cried out: ***“I AM the light of the world?”*** He meant that He was and is, the I AM THAT I AM, He is the incarnation of the Shekinah glory, He is the light of Israel, He is the Messiah, the Light to the Gentiles, the source of the light of the world, and the one who embodied that glorious light to a dark world and was not overcome by the darkness at Calvary. He is claiming all of these things when He says, ***“I AM the light of the world!”***

II. How Can We Have This Light?

“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’ (John 8:12).

A. Now that we have tackled the first part of this verse, let us focus our attention on the last half and see if we can’t apply it to us. What difference does it make that He is the light of the world? Jesus told us, ***“He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”***

1. We must possess this light, if we are of those who follow Him. The Greek here carries with it the idea of continuous action. This is not just tagging along, this is committed discipleship.

2. Many vivid pictures surround the concept of following Christ in John's Gospel. For example, it says in **John 10:4, 27-28**, Jesus said that following Him is one of the indispensable marks of His sheep.

John 10:4 *"And when He brings out His own sheep, He goes before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice."*

John 10:27-28 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."*

Following is simply going where He goes and doing what He does.

3. In **John 12:26** we hear the Lord Jesus saying, *"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."* Following Him is also being willing to be where He is! John also reminds us of the biggest difficulty that we face in following Him.

John 21:19-22 *"This [Jesus]spoke, signifying by what death [Peter] would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me.' Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, 'Lord, who is the one who betrays You?' Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, 'But Lord, what about this man?' Jesus said to him, 'If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.'"*

The issue is not are you following or how are you following, but am I following Jesus?

B. What happens if we follow Him? The Lord has a promise for us.

1. First, we will not walk in darkness. He will provide two things for us. **(1)** We will not live out our lives in ignorance of Who God is and what He desires for our lives. We will know Him and we will know what He is doing in the world around us. We will also live lives which demonstrate some level of victory over sin.

1 John 1:5-7 *"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

2. Second, we will have the *"light of life."* The light of the life of Christ will shine out in our lives. We will become lights to this dark world.

Matthew 5:14-16 *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

He, Jesus, is the source of the light, but we are the ones who reflect that light to the darkened world around us. Let us be good lights to the darkened world!

The Light of the World is Jesus