

Light of the World 2019-06-30

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Verses 7:52-8:11 will be next week...these verses are not in oldest New Testament manuscripts....interrupts the sequence.

- John 6: manna/Bread of Life, John 7: water > rock/source Living Water, John 8 fire pillar/True Light.
- Entire Feast of Tabernacles: 4 huge candelabras in temple lit up entire city as reminder of Lord's presence in pillar/fire that protected/guided Israel thru wilderness.
 - Jesus Christ is Light of the World promises Christians His presence, protection, guidance.

Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah ("I am"/pillar of fire), they knew it so they rejected Jesus as messiah expressed in challenging His credibility. Exodus 13:21, John 8:12-14, 23-25

- They can't understand because not belong to God...from below/darkness.

Jesus came and shed light upon darkness not by pointing to the light or bringing the light, but by being the light....God incarnate....2nd of 7 "I am" statements in John.

- Exclusive He is THE Light of world not "a light"....It's Jesus or darkness.
- Jesus is the source of illumination regarding spiritual matters, John 3:19, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - "angel of light" try keep in darkness of false religions/moralism.

Light of the World shines light into darkness to reveal truth to us.

- Terrible darkness in world all around....like deep inside cave.
 - Evil, disease, addiction, loneliness, sorrow, loss....sin.
- Also in soul: Naturally love/walk in dark. 2 Corinthians 4:6, Jeremiah 17:9

Light of the World exposed man's sin and need for Savior and dispelled darkness in world/human heart/minds thru crosstheme in John. 1:4-5, 12:36 & 46, Matthew 16:24

- Come out of darkness/blackness of guilt, condemnation by placing faith in Light of the World who promises His presence, protection, guidanceGospel.

Root: belief in Jesus, fruit: follow Him/Light of the World. Followers have faith. Faithful will follow.

- If don't follow Jesus: you'll walk in darkness and reap consequences.

Walk in light by living the way Jesus lived. In dependence upon the Father. Ephesian 4:17-18

- Walk in light vertically: holiness before God.
 - Obedience is acid test, not emotional experiences.
- Walk in light horizontally: love. Ephesians 5:8, Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-15; Psalm 36:9
 - His light reveals how live in dark world.
 - In the light of Jesus everything looks different....Nature, suffering, death, relationships, finances, pride, sex, priorities.

- When by grace we follow Him, though darkness all around/within, as children of light we will reflect His light in dark world.

Christian...No danger of losing light and not finishing. John 8:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

- Future tense: "shall not/shall" implies continuance and eternal possession
 - He who called/saved you will keep you! That's point of context.

Jesus fulfillment of all signified by pillar of cloud/fire:

God's presence (Exodus 13:21a, 1 Corinthians 3:16), guidance (Numbers 9:17-18, Romans 8:14, John 16:13, James 1:5), protection (Exodus 13:21b, Hebrews 13:6, John 10:29, Psalm 27:1).

- Light of the World reveals our sin/need of forgiveness, saves then guides thru life's wilderness, leads into Promised Land....eternal life with Him.
 - Jesus Christ is the true light to be followed

He is Light of the World who promises Christians His presence, protection, guidance.