

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12

I. FEAST OF TABERNACLES. Ch. 7

A. The Feast.

1. Approximately 6 months following the events in chap. 6.
2. Approximately 6 months before Jesus' crucifixion.
3. The Feast of Tabernacles [Booths]:
 - a. A harvest festival during the months of Sept. and Oct.
 - i. Time of thanksgiving for harvest.
 - ii. The anniversary of the wilderness wanderings, Lev. 23:42-43.
 - b. The most popular of the three feasts.
 - c. All males required to attend feast, Deut. 16:16.
4. Water from the pool of Siloam was used as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God, 7:37-38.
 - a. A priest would take a golden pitcher filled with water from Siloam.
 - b. Would pour it at the base of the altar at the temple.
 - c. The multitude would recite the Hallel (Ps. 113-118).
 - d. The ceremony would not be conducted on the final day.

B. The Validity of Christ.

1. Jesus began to teach, vs. 14.
 - a. First mention of teaching in public.
 - b. Crowds had witnessed signs, but not teaching.
2. Jesus' teaching is from God, 7:16-18.
3. Jesus claims to be the Son of God, 7:28-29 (8:19).
 - a. Jesus proclaims, is to cry out in a loud voice.
 - b. The statement can read as a question: "So, you know Me and where I am from?"
 - c. They knew He was from Galilee, but did not recognize Him coming from God.
4. Jesus offers streams of living water, 7:37-38.
 - a. In the midst of spiritual hunger, "*I am the bread of life.*"
 - b. No physical water, but Jesus offers spiritual water to overflowing!

C. Concerns blinding them to Jesus:

1. "He is a good man." 7:12
2. "No, He deceives the people," vs. 12.
3. How can He have such learning without study? 7:15
4. He is demon possessed. 7:20
5. We know where He is from. 7:27
6. Are we looking for someone greater? 7:31
7. Where can He go where we can't find Him? 7:35
8. How can the Christ come from Galilee? 7:41

II. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Ch. 8

A. Jesus, the Light, 8:12.

1. During the feast – first night ceremony lighting lamps in the temple.
 - a. Began at the Court of Women.
 - b. Lights reflected brightly – to all temple courtyards
 - c. Jesus proclaims, "*I am the light of the world.*" (8:12)

2. To the Jew, light was characteristic of the Divine Being.
 - a. Remembering the pillar of fire leading Israel through the wilderness.
 - b. The psalmist in Ps. 27:1, "*The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?*"
 - c. Word of God, Ps. 119:105.
 - d. Reference to the Messiah, Isa. 9:2.
 - e. ***A statement such as this would be highly offensive to them.***
- B. Contrast Darkness and Light through Scripture.
 1. The world, plunged into darkness, beginning with Adam and Eve, Gen. 6:5.
 2. Romans 13:12
 3. Eph. 5:8-11
 4. 1 Pet. 2:9-10
 5. Jn. 1:3-5

III. THE BLIND MAN. Ch. 9

- A. Recount the Healing of the Blind Man.
 1. Questions regarding the sins of the blind man, 9:2.
 2. "I am the light of the world," vs. 5.
 2. Jesus makes a mudpack and places it on the eyes, 9:6.
 3. Sends him to the pool of Siloam to wash, 9:7.
 4. The blind man returns able to see, vs. 7.
- B. Disbelief of the Pharisees.
 1. The Pharisees question the blind man, 9:13-34.
 2. Refuse to accept miracle done by Jesus.
 - a. He is not from God, 9:16.
 - b. He does not keep the Sabbath, vs. 16.
 - c. He is a sinner, 9:24.
 - d. We don't know where He is from, 9:29.
- C. Spiritual Blindness, 9:35-41.
 1. The light obligates all who see it.
 - a. If it is dark, excusable to stumble.
 - b. With Christ the light, no excuse to stumble, except:
 - i. Rom. 1:18-21
 - ii. 2 Cor. 4:3-6
 2. Commanded to respond, Jn. 3:16-21.
 3. Cannot walk in both light and darkness, 1 Jn. 1:5-7.