

## Day 3. John 8:12-20

### INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Look back at John 7:37-38. Jesus was at the Feast of Booths and using the water ceremony to point to himself as the source of living water. How did the people respond to his claims in John 7:52? *“Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”*

Now read the prophecies in Isaiah 9:1-2 alongside John 8:12. According to these verses, were the Pharisees correct in their response? What key words do you see echoed in both passages? *No, the Pharisees were not correct. This prophecy in Isaiah 9 says that the Messiah will come out of Galilee and bring light into the darkness. The words darkness and light are repeated in both texts.*

This is the second I AM in the book of John. Be sure to add it to your chart back in Week 1, Day 2.

The awesome thing about Jesus proclaiming himself as the light of the world at the Feast of Booths is that there was also a lighting ceremony during the celebration. Four large lamps were lit, people would dance and sing at night while holding burning torches. Can you imagine what it would have been like to hear Jesus say “I am the light of the world” during this lighting ceremony? There are many Old and New Testament allusions to this statement. Look up each passage in the chart below and write what you learn about light.

Pictures of Light in Scripture	
Exodus 13:21-22	<i>Pillar of fire</i>
Psalms 27:1	<i>The Lord is our light</i>
Psalms 119:105	<i>Your word is a lamp and light</i>
Habakkuk 3:3-4	<i>God’s brightness as the light</i>
Malachi 4:2	<i>The “sun of righteousness” is a prophecy of the Messiah</i>
Isaiah 60:19-22	<i>The LORD would be the light for his people in the coming age</i>

Revelation 21:23-24 Bonus: How is John 1:36 related?	<i>In the future new heaven and new earth, the “lamp is the Lamb” John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God</i>
Which verse in John 1 relates to John 8:12 the best?	<i>John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”</i>

Zechariah 14:5b-8 were probably the basis for the liturgical readings for the Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of Booths). Which two pictures are used here to describe God that are also used by Jesus to describe himself? *Light & living waters*

In John 8:13-18, the Pharisees seem to accuse Jesus of not having more than one witness to establish the truth of his claims. Remember, the Old Testament law did require multiple witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:6). What is Jesus’ response? *The Father also bears witness*

What do you notice in verses 19-20? Explain its significance to the passage here (there are multiple answers you may have): *Answers will vary. The Pharisees thought he was talking about his earthly Father (v19). Jesus says that the Pharisees do not know God (v19). Jesus claims to be equal with God (v19). “His hour had not yet come” means that it was not time for him to die yet, so no one arrested him – everything had to happen according to the Father’s timetable (v20).*

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means?

*Answers will vary. At the Feast of Booths, Jesus used the lighting ceremony to declare: I AM the light of the world.*