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Where was Jesus between October and December of the year 29 A.D? Possibly in Galilee, as **Lk. 10:11-13:21** covers (go through a harmony of the Gospels). But in **Jn. 10:22-39**, we find Jesus back in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication. This is not one of the 3 feasts prescribed in the OT, but originated in 164 B.C. The Jews gathered to celebrate the time when under the military leadership of Judas Maccabaeus, Jewish freedom fighters were able to retake Jerusalem and free the Temple and the land from Syrian domination. The Jews liberated the Temple, rededicated it, and established this feast. You see, the Syrian Antiochus Epiphanes from 175-164 B.C. had sought to impose Greek culture on his subjects (Hellenization). He sacrificed a pig on the Jewish Temple altar, set up a pagan altar (to Zeus) in its place, and attempted to stamp out Judaism. During that time, the Jews weren't allowed to read the OT Scriptures; they were forbidden to observe the Sabbath or to practice circumcision. So the Feast of Dedication was to commemorate that freedom had come back to Israel. In every Jew's window, 8 candles were lit over a period of 8 days. So Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish festival marking the miraculous victory of the Maccabees.

"After recapturing Jerusalem's Temple, they searched for pure oil with which to light the Temple menorah. They found just enough to burn for one day, but miraculously it burned for 8 days, until more oil could be brought. So, on each of the 8 nights, Jewish people lit special menorahs (candelabras), adding another flame each night, until on the 8th night 8 flames were burning brightly. This was performed in the homes (& placed in windows) after brief blessings were recited." This is still practiced today. (Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Chislev. 2023 12/7-15. 2024 12/25-1/2. 2025 12/14-22. 2026 12/4-12.)

At this festival, here came Jesus! Through both Jesus' words and His works, He had clearly demonstrated His identity & equality with God. Yet the nation had rejected Him—just as the OT predicted would happen (**Ps. 22:6-8, Is. 49:7, 50:6, 53:3**). Remember, Jesus had within the last 3 months claimed I AM the Light of the world, the Door of the sheepfold, and the Shepherd, the good one!

Read :22-30. :22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; :23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Feast took place in Jerusalem during the rainy season in Israel. Jesus went to Jerusalem from Galilee and was walking in Solomon's Porch area. The first court (which was also open to Gentiles who wanted to worship the Jewish God) was called the Court of the Gentiles, and "it included two magnificent colonnades called the Royal Porch and Solomon's Porch." The pillars were almost 40 feet high and roofed over.

:24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Is Jesus the Christ? Up to this point in John, Jesus had revealed Himself to be such only to the Samaritan woman **4:26**, although He had claimed equality with the Father & declared to the blind man that He was the Son of Man (**9:35-37**). The Jews surrounded Him and were repeatedly asking: "You're keeping us holding our breath; You're taking away our life! Are You the Christ?"

Peter had claimed Jesus was the Christ (**Mt. 16:16, Mk. 8:29, Lk. 9:20**) and Jesus had accepted that, but Jesus hadn't claimed He was the Christ to the nation because of the wrong expectations of the Jewish people. They wanted Him to be like Judas Maccabaeus, a political king and warrior of Israel, in rebellion against the Roman government (Rome conquered Israel around 63 B.C.). When you look at Jesus' 'signs' and His teachings (He teaches as one with authority **Mk. 1:22,27**), He was truly an amazing man, yet He hadn't formally presented Himself as the Messiah. "**If You're the Christ, tell us plainly/boldly/confidently!**" If He claimed to be the Christ they expected, a charge of blasphemy (which they were claiming in this text and **Jn. 5:17-18**) or a charge of insurrection against Rome could be brought (remember, Jesus was sentenced because He was "The King of the Jews!").

:25-26 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. Think about it: Jesus had been born in Bethlehem in the line of David. He was born of a virgin, owned of God at His baptism, introduced by John the Baptist. His teaching demonstrated that He was the Messiah, and His miracles and life demonstrated it. No man could convict Him of sin. His signs were to convince people He was the Jewish Christ and the Son of God. His previous sayings and works should have been sufficient to establish His messianic mission (**5:17-47; 6:29,35,43-65; 7:14-30,37-39; 8:12,28,29, 42,56-58, 10:7-18**). "You don't believe what these works so clearly declare." It was not a lack of information. More words and works wouldn't have helped! Yet what a difficult thing it is to convince people when you do not look like what they expect! They simply chose to not believe, regardless of Jesus meeting OT requirements and His words and works. And, they not only did not believe, but they would charge Him with blasphemy (**:33**) based on the words, "**I do in My Father's name.**"

:26-28 "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. :27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; :28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand." How can you tell a true believer from a mere professor? 1st, we believe what Jesus says is the truth, and we long to hear more. 2nd, we recognize His voice. "Sheep aren't particularly bright, but if they know the shepherd's voice, and that might be the key thing, they trust." 3rd, we see His works as signs of who He is. We follow Him and obey His words. We do not depend for security upon our own faith, but simply on the One who called us. What security there is in Jesus! Here is an example of human responsibility (believe) on the one hand and divine sovereignty on the other. You can't deny either. The Bible does not attempt to reconcile them (**Lk. 22:22, Acts 2:23. Jn. 6:35-40**). When He 'keeps on giving' eternal life, that means we don't

earn it and we don't work for it. It is *eternal* (unceasing, forever, lasting) life; the splendor and magnificence of the life of God; a quality of life; a life that knows no end; the full life we really want, the abundant life.

&, when God saves, He saves completely. We will never perish! We'll never enter the state of wrath; we'll never be banished forever from the presence of the God of love. Lit. They shall not ever (2 negatives) perish forever. The sheep's security is in the capacity of the Shepherd. The basis of man's salvation rests forever in God, not in man! We need never fear being lost or blind or left behind. We are His!! **:29-30 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch (carry off by force) them out of the Father's hand. :30 I and the Father are one."** Given is in the perfect tense, "which tense refers to a past completed action having present results." Jesus was so sure of Himself because He was so sure of His Father and who His Father was. The Christian life is a life which is guarded, kept, protected by "2 unconquerable Beings": God the Father and Jesus the Shepherd. Who can snatch something from God? Remember, He is concerned about us (**:13**).

:30 Jesus and the Father are one in essence/nature, yet they are not identical persons (**1:1**) Jesus affirms His complete equality with the Father. **I and the Father are one.** Later He'll pray, "That they may be one, as We are one" **17:11**.

Read :31-39. :31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. For the 3rd time (**5:18, 8:59**), John records that the Jews attempted to stone Jesus. This is the punishment prescribed for blasphemy in **Lev. 24:16**. Major premise: A blasphemer must be stoned to death. Minor premise: This man is a blasphemer. Conclusion: this man must be stoned to death. They understood His claim. Just think, they wanted to stone the Light of the world, the Door of the fold, the Good Shepherd! His works were rejected in **5:16**; His words in **8:58-59**; His Person in **10:30-31**. The Jews were like an angry lynch mob!

:32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" Good means excellent, beautiful, noble in character. The quality of the works is stressed! He always insisted that the Father was working in Him and through Him. See **Acts 2:22**. The Lord did not soften or withdraw His claim to be equal with the Father. Instead, He forced them to face and deal with His miraculous good works done at the direction of the Father. The Jewish leadership was in "the awkward position of opposing the public and popular good things He had done" in giving sight to the blind, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, liberating the demon-possessed, and even raising the dead (**Lk. 7:14-15, 8:52-56, Jn. 11**). "Why should My good works be rewarded with the death penalty?" He was later investigated in the trials before Annas and Caiaphas (see **Mk 14:61; Mt. 26:63, Lk. 22:66-71**). They refused to consider the possibility that His claim might be true (**1:14, 5:17-18, 8:58-59, 10:30,31,33, Phil. 2:5-11**). "He is then making Himself God." They clearly understood what He meant. What Jesus had 'claimed' in **10:30** was far more important than what He 'did'.

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In **:34**, we see Jesus' wise answer. **:34 Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'?"** "The reference is to **Ps. 82:6**, where God rebuked Israel's unjust judges, calling them gods (in a far lesser sense) because they ruled as His reps and spokesmen." "They do this God-like work, but they themselves are judged because they do it unjustly." If the OT uses the word God (Elohim) of men who were representatives of God, then the Jews should not oppose Jesus for calling Himself the Son of God. Elohim, which means 'gods', the same form of expression is used in **Ex. 22:9,28**. Amazingly, Jesus had even referred to Himself as 'Yahweh', not Elohim, in **8:58!**

:35 "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (& the Scripture cannot be broken)." We see here the high regard Jesus had for the OT. "A clear declaration of the absolute authority and inerrancy of the Bible. **:36 "do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"** Jesus thought of Himself not so much as coming into the world, as being sent into the world. No one can legitimately claim to have pre-existed, but Jesus did. "Even the Scriptures do it and they can't be wrong—how can you accuse Me of blasphemy when I claim to be the Son of God and do the work of God?"

"Jesus can therefore explicitly accept the title 'Son of God' but must totally reject the charge that He has usurped this title—making Himself God." It is the Father who had set Him apart and sent Him into the world.

:37-38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; :38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." See **7:17**.

:37 If Jesus did not do the works of the Father, they would have been right in refusing to believe Him. Jesus' 'works' are evidence that Jesus is one with the Father. The laying down of His life for the sheep will be another good work which is worthy of the Good Shepherd. Surely works of love and power should be recognizable as the work of the Father. What we hear and see is our Father's heart and love and power demonstrated through His Son.

:38 Even if the leaders could not test Jesus' verbal claims, they could see His works. We have His words and His works!

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The only conclusion left for me is that Jesus is indeed God become man. He is the Light as well as the Life of mankind. Yes, Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the Door of the sheep pen, and the Shepherd, the Good One! What is your conclusion concerning Jesus based on this passage? How is Jesus becoming more understandable to you? How will you apply these words of Jesus to your life? These truths are certainly helping me understand my Lord and Savior even better. I pray the same for you. Joel

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Where was Jesus between October and December of the year 29 A.D? Possibly in Galilee, as **Lk. 10:11-13:21** covers (go through a harmony of the Gospels). But in **Jn. 10:22-39**, we find Jesus back in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication. This is not one of the 3 feasts prescribed in the OT, but originated in 164 B.C. The Jews gathered to celebrate the time when under the military leadership of Judas Maccabaeus, Jewish freedom fighters were able to retake Jerusalem and free the Temple and the land from Syrian domination. The Jews liberated the Temple, rededicated it, and established this feast. You see, the Syrian Antiochus Epiphanes from 175-164 B.C. had sought to impose Greek culture on his subjects (Hellenization). He sacrificed a pig on the Jewish Temple altar, set up a pagan altar (to Zeus) in its place, and attempted to stamp out Judaism. During that time, the Jews weren't allowed to read the OT Scriptures; they were forbidden to observe the Sabbath or to practice circumcision. So the Feast of Dedication was to commemorate that freedom had come back to Israel. In every Jew's window, 8 candles were lit over a period of 8 days. So Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish festival marking the miraculous victory of the Maccabees.

"After recapturing Jerusalem's Temple, they searched for pure oil with which to light the Temple menorah. They found just enough to burn for one day, but miraculously it burned for 8 days, until more oil could be brought. So, on each of the 8 nights, Jewish people lit special menorahs (candelabras), adding another flame each night, until on the 8th night 8 flames were burning brightly. This was performed in the homes (& placed in windows) after brief blessings were recited." This is still practiced today. (Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Chislev. 2023 12/7-15. 2024 12/25-1/2. 2025 12/14-22. 2026 12/4-12.)

At this festival, here came Jesus! Through both Jesus' words and His works, He had clearly demonstrated His identity & equality with God. Yet the nation had rejected Him—just as the OT predicted would happen (**Ps. 22:6-8, Is. 49:7, 50:6, 53:3**). Remember, Jesus had within the last 3 months claimed I AM the Light of the world, the Door of the sheepfold, and the Shepherd, the good one!

Read :22-30. :22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; :23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Feast took place in Jerusalem during the rainy season in Israel. Jesus went to Jerusalem from Galilee and was walking in Solomon's Porch area. The first court (which was also open to Gentiles who wanted to worship the Jewish God) was called the Court of the Gentiles, and "it included two magnificent colonnades called the Royal Porch and Solomon's Porch." The pillars were almost 40 feet high and roofed over.

:24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Is Jesus the Christ? Up to this point in John, Jesus had revealed Himself to be such only to the Samaritan woman **4:26**, although He had claimed equality with the Father & declared to the blind man that He was the Son of Man (**9:35-37**). The Jews surrounded Him and were repeatedly asking: “You’re keeping us holding our breath; You’re taking away our life! Are You the Christ?”

Peter had claimed Jesus was the Christ (**Mt. 16:16, Mk. 8:29, Lk. 9:20**) and Jesus had accepted that, but Jesus hadn’t claimed He was the Christ to the nation because of the wrong expectations of the Jewish people. They wanted Him to be like Judas Maccabeus, a political king and warrior of Israel, in rebellion against the Roman government (Rome conquered Israel around 63 B.C.). When you look at Jesus’ ‘signs’ and His teachings (He teaches as one with authority **Mk. 1:22,27**), He was truly an amazing man, yet He hadn’t formally presented Himself as the Messiah. **“If You’re the Christ, tell us plainly/boldly/confidently!”** If He claimed to be the Christ they expected, a charge of blasphemy (which they were claiming in this text and **Jn. 5:17-18**) or a charge of insurrection against Rome could be brought (remember, Jesus was sentenced because He was “The King of the Jews!”).

:25-26 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. Think about it: Jesus had been born in Bethlehem in the line of David. He was born of a virgin, owned of God at His baptism, introduced by John the Baptist. His teaching demonstrated that He was the Messiah, and His miracles and life demonstrated it. No man could convict Him of sin. His signs were to convince people He was the Jewish Christ and the Son of God. His previous sayings and works should have been sufficient to establish His messianic mission (**5:17-47; 6:29,35,43-65; 7:14-30,37-39; 8:12,28,29, 42,56-58, 10:7-18**). “You don’t believe what these works so clearly declare.” It was not a lack of information. More words and works wouldn’t have helped! Yet what a difficult thing it is to convince people when you do not look like what they expect! They simply chose to not believe, regardless of Jesus meeting OT requirements and His words and works. And, they not only did not believe, but they would charge Him with blasphemy (:33) based on the words, **“I do in My Father’s name.”**

:26-28 “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. :27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; :28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” How can you tell a true believer from a mere professor? 1st, we believe what Jesus says is the truth, and we long to hear more. 2nd, we recognize His voice. “Sheep aren’t particularly bright, but if they know the shepherd’s voice, and that might be the key thing, they trust.” 3rd, we see His works as signs of who He is. We follow Him and obey His words. We do not depend for security upon our own faith, but simply on the One who called us. What security there is in Jesus! Here is an example of human responsibility (believe) on the one hand and divine sovereignty on the other. You can’t deny either. The Bible does not attempt to reconcile them (**Lk. 22:22, Acts 2:23. Jn. 6:35-40**). When He ‘keeps on giving’ eternal life, that means we don’t

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earn it and we don't work for it. It is *eternal* (unceasing, forever, lasting) life; the splendor and magnificence of the life of God; a quality of life; a life that knows no end; the full life we really want, the abundant life.

&, when God saves, He saves completely. We will never perish! We'll never enter the state of wrath; we'll never be banished forever from the presence of the God of love. Lit. They shall not ever (2 negatives) perish forever. The sheep's security is in the capacity of the Shepherd. The basis of man's salvation rests forever in God, not in man! We need never fear being lost or blind or left behind. We are His!! **:29-30 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch (carry off by force) them out of the Father's hand. :30 I and the Father are one."** Given is in the perfect tense, "which tense refers to a past completed action having present results." Jesus was so sure of Himself because He was so sure of His Father and who His Father was. The Christian life is a life which is guarded, kept, protected by "2 unconquerable Beings": God the Father and Jesus the Shepherd. Who can snatch something from God? Remember, He is concerned about us (:13).

:30 Jesus and the Father are one in essence/nature, yet they are not identical persons (1:1) Jesus affirms His complete equality with the Father. **I and the Father are one.** Later He'll pray, "That they may be one, as We are one" 17:11.

Read :31-39. :31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. For the 3rd time (5:18, 8:59), John records that the Jews attempted to stone Jesus. This is the punishment prescribed for blasphemy in **Lev. 24:16**. Major premise: A blasphemer must be stoned to death. Minor premise: This man is a blasphemer. Conclusion: this man must be stoned to death. They understood His claim. Just think, they wanted to stone the Light of the world, the Door of the fold, the Good Shepherd! His works were rejected in 5:16; His words in 8:58-59; His Person in 10:30-31. The Jews were like an angry lynch mob!

:32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" Good means excellent, beautiful, noble in character. The quality of the works is stressed! He always insisted that the Father was working in Him and through Him. See **Acts 2:22**. The Lord did not soften or withdraw His claim to be equal with the Father. Instead, He forced them to face and deal with His miraculous good works done at the direction of the Father. The Jewish leadership was in "the awkward position of opposing the public and popular good things He had done" in giving sight to the blind, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, liberating the demon-possessed, and even raising the dead (**Lk. 7:14-15, 8:52-56, Jn. 11**). "Why should My good works be rewarded with the death penalty?" He was later investigated in the trials before Annas and Caiaphas (see **Mk 14:61; Mt. 26:63, Lk. 22:66-71**). They refused to consider the possibility that His claim might be true (1:14, 5:17-18, 8:58-59, 10:30,31,33, Phil. 2:5-11). "He is then making Himself God." They clearly understood what He meant. What Jesus had 'claimed' in 10:30 was far more important than what He 'did'.

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In :34, we see Jesus' wise answer. **:34 Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'?"** "The reference is to **Ps. 82:6**, where God rebuked Israel's unjust judges, calling them gods (in a far lesser sense) because they ruled as His reps and spokesmen." "They do this God-like work, but they themselves are judged because they do it unjustly." If the OT uses the word God (Elohim) of men who were representatives of God, then the Jews should not oppose Jesus for calling Himself the Son of God. Elohim, which means 'gods', the same form of expression is used in **Ex. 22:9,28**. Amazingly, Jesus had even referred to Himself as 'Yahweh', not Elohim, in **8:58!**

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"Jesus can therefore explicitly accept the title 'Son of God' but must totally reject the charge that He has usurped this title—making Himself God." It is the Father who had set Him apart and sent Him into the world.

:37-38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; :38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." See 7:17.

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:38 Even if the leaders could not test Jesus' verbal claims, they could see His works. We have His words and His works!

:39 Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp. They tried to seize Him again (**7:32**), but He eluded (got away from) them. He left Jerusalem, not to return until 3 or 4 months later to raise Lazarus from the dead **11:1f** and enter Jerusalem publicly **12:12**. So Jesus' public ministry according to John's Gospel includes another rejection by the very leaders who should have welcomed Him as the Jewish Christ and the Son of God.

The only conclusion left for me is that Jesus is indeed God become man. He is the Light as well as the Life of mankind. Yes, Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the Door of the sheep pen, and the Shepherd, the Good One! What is your conclusion concerning Jesus based on this passage? How is Jesus becoming more understandable to you? How will you apply these words of Jesus to your life? These truths are certainly helping me understand my Lord and Savior even better. I pray the same for you. Joel

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