

Dear fellow Light seekers, in **John 7:37** Jesus said, **“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me & drink.”** What an offer! Now, added to the offer of quenching their thirst, Jesus offers living in the light rather than darkness. “One would think that sinners, hopelessly lost in the darkness, would flock to the Light. Yet in a strange paradox, people love the very darkness that ensnares them,” the sin that they’re slaves of. Jesus is in the treasury of the Temple, which is in the Court of the Women, so Jewish listeners only (show on map). Also remember, He’s basically stayed away from Jerusalem and Judea the last two years. Now He’s back! **Read 8:12-20. :12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world** [see 9:5, 12:46, the 2nd of the 7 “I am” statements]; **he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”** Jesus has always been shining, enlightening every man (1:4,9). Feast of Shelters.

Jesus is talking to the crowd, with the Pharisees overhearing. **“I AM the Light of the World.”** Earlier He claimed He was the Bread of Life (6:35,48), the living & true Bread from heaven (6:51,58). Now He says, “If you follow Me, you won’t be walking in the darkness.” Why? Because you’ll have Him, the Light!

In the Court of the Women where Jesus was speaking, 4 huge candelabras were lit: A reminder of the pillar of fire by which God had guided Israel in the wilderness. Now Jesus states that He—no one else beside Him—is that Light. **Read Heb. 1:3 the radiance of the Father’s glory and the exact representation of His nature.** Jesus helps us distinguish between that which is true, life, light, and that which is false, death, and darkness. How desperately we need Him.

:13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true (or valid).” The legalists, separatists, who had 1000s of rules and interpretations (from the OT, the Talmud, the Mishnah), said, “You are bearing witness about Yourself.” According to the OT Law, every fact in a legal matter had to be established by the testimony of more than one witness (Num. 35:30, Dt. 17:6, 19:15). Now, how did they ‘know’ His testimony wasn’t true, valid, reality? Ignorant of the facts, they hadn’t done their homework! They were judging Him only by the superficial, by external appearance (7:24). The assertions of Jesus needed to be tested by the evidence that existed (He was fulfilling OT prophecies: ancestry, birthplace). Jesus had earlier given this same group of legalists 4 other witnesses (in 5:31-47): John the Baptist, His works, the Father, the Scriptures.

:14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true (or valid), for I know (1491 that which is seen, external form,) where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know (1491) where I come from and where I am going. Why was Jesus’ witness true? He knew who He was. He knew where He had come from and where He was going. A person can make such claims if they’re true! “I know where I came from (He’s constantly saying the Father sent Him (see 13:3), just doing what the Father sent Him to do). **See 16:28.** “Merely because I claim certain things is no reason to reject them.” Examine the evidence! They were unaware of His earthly birthplace (7:41-42,52), let alone that He had always existed.

:15-16 “You judge [2919 determine, decide, choose; see :26] according to the flesh (4561 sarx, generally negative, of merely human origin or empowerment); I am not judging (2919) anyone. “You’re judging Me with all your human limitations, but I’m not judging anyone.” Jesus: secure in the knowledge of :14. “Though you lack the necessary knowledge to judge, you are constantly judging Me. You are doing this, moreover, according to earthly standards according to external appearance (superficially, externally).” Their judgment should have been based on God’s revelation (7:45-52). In the sense they meant, Jesus made it clear that He did not judge at all with their criteria.

:16 But even if I do judge (2919), My judgment (2920) is true (genuine, the real thing); for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me (see 3:17,34, 5:30,36,37). “If I did judge anyone, My judgment would be true because I’m not alone in My judgment. My judgment is true, the real thing, for it is a judgment in which My Father and I unite. I have along with Me the Father who sent Me.” He had mentioned His Father back in 2:16, 3:35, 4:21,23, 5:17-45, 6:27-57. He’s constantly mentioning His Father! Jesus is making Himself and His Father the issue. If one doesn’t know Jesus, one doesn’t know the Father either! (14:7). How this must have infuriated them!!

:17 Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true (or valid or admissible). They had the OT Scripture (Dt. 17:6, 19:15). 2 or 3 witnesses. The Father and the Son are certainly reliable! **:18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”** “I am one witness; My Father who sent Me is the second.” You can just see Jesus counting on His fingers—“One, two. I am #1! The Father is a fellow witness. He’s #2!” Jesus met the requirement of the OT (also see 5:31-47).

:19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know (1491) neither Me nor My Father; if you knew (1491) Me, you would know (1491) My Father also.” “Where is your Father?” Jesus replied, “Since you don’t know Me, you don’t know who My Father is either.” How sad! “Who I am and who sent Me”—Jesus is again making Himself the issue. The fact that they did not recognize Him for who and what He was provided the proof that they did not know Him. The whole history of Israel had been designed so the Jews would recognize their Messiah when He came (see Hebrews). The knowledge of the Father depended on knowing Him (see 1:18). The only answer to the person who sincerely asks, “Where is God?” is to say “Look at Jesus, the power and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:19-2:8).

:20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come. But He wasn’t arrested (7:30,45); why? Because His hour had not yet come (2:4, 7:6,30, 8:20, 12:23,27, 17:1). He was operating on God’s timetable, not man’s.

There was still time for these people, time to hear, turn around, face the Light, believe. But the time is not endless; there will not always be another chance. By this time, they had rejected the One who is the Bread of life (6:66), gives the water of life (7:37), and is the Light of life, the Light of the world (8:12).

Read 8:21-30. Just think: The world is living in darkness and loving it! Therefore, its wisdom and knowledge can't find God. "In light of overwhelming evidence, unbelief in Jesus is inexcusable." Even those who have not heard the good news of Jesus are still responsible for rejecting the truth that they have been given (**Rom. 1:18-21 and Rom. 2:14-15**).

:21 Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek (search for) Me, and will die in your sin [singular, a missing of a target]; where I am going, you cannot come." Remember **7:32-36**. **I go away:** By means of His impending death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father, where He would receive the glory He had with the Father before the world was (**17:5,24**). **Die in your sin;** what is the sin? Unbelief: the rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God (**16:8-11**). By their refusal to receive Him and believe in His name, they had shut themselves off from God—spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

:22 So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" "Is He planning to commit suicide? What does He mean?" They would die in their sin of unbelief.

:23-24 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. :24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins [plural]; for unless you believe that I AM He, you will die in your sins." Jesus answered, "You are from below and of this world. I am from above and not of this world. That's why I said you'll die in your sins. For unless you believe I AM (God's OT name), you'll die in your sins." He's showing them their need for a Deliverer, someone from above. (I AM!)

They were spiritually blinded (**2 Cor. 3:14, 4:4, Eph. 2:1-3**), limited to earthly thinking, pressures from the world, living by the strong desires of the flesh, according to their father, the devil (**8:44**). This is every unbeliever's story. "Materialism, humanism, immorality, pride, and selfishness are the world's hallmarks. Its opinions are wrong; its aims are selfish; its pleasures are sinful; its influences are demoralizing; its politics are corrupt; its honors are empty; its smiles are phony; its love is false & fickle." **Read 15:19, Eph. 2:12, Col. 1:13.**

:24 Into this world with its dishonored bodies, degraded passions, and depraved minds (**Rom. 1:24-32**) comes Jesus, and He is the Light. The responsibility is ours if we refuse to accept Him. Jesus' answer is the offer of the one and only way: "**Believe that I AM.**" YHWH, the OT name of God so sacred that the Jews refused to pronounce it. The reference is best explained in **Ex. 3:14** where God declared His name as I AM—Yahweh, the LORD of the OT. Not only were they repudiating Jesus' claims, they were completely rejecting His person. "I AM all I claim to be: the One sent by the Father, the One who is from above, the Son of man, the only-begotten Son of God, equal with God, the One who has life in Himself, the very essence of the Scriptures, the Bread of life, the Light of the world." Believe that Jesus is the I AM!

Believe: Already used about 50X. **Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal. 3:26, 1 Jn. 5:10-3.** Those who reject Him can't be saved, but will die in their sins. They will die because they're sinners by nature and heredity, they've each sinned, and there is sin in the flesh. Only Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the Father's justice.

:25-26 So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning? :26 I have many things to speak and to judge (2019, determine, decide, choose) concerning you, but He who sent Me is true (227 undeniable reality when tested); and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." "You, who are You?" Jesus answers with a question. Jesus replied, "I'm the one I've always claimed to be, I AM. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but I won't. For I say only what I've heard from the One who sent Me, and He is true." See **7:28**. In every word of Jesus, the mind of the Father is expressed. See **1:1, 3:11, 5:19,30,32,37, 7:16**. His words are meant for all, for the entire world.

:27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. They still didn't understand He was talking to them about His Father. Ignorance was blocking the minds of these men; pride was blinding their eyes (**2 Cor. 4:3-6**). Their ignorance was inexcusable (see **Eph. 4:17-19**).

:28-29 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. :29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left (did not send away) Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing (satisfying) to Him." "When you have lifted up the Son of Man (on the cross; also see **3:14, 12:32-33**), then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on My own, but I speak as the FATHER taught Me." "They would one day awaken to the terrifying realization that this One whom they despised was the One whom they should have worshiped." It is the redemptive death of Jesus that explains Him, why He came, and who He is. His death and resurrection vindicated every claim ever made by Jesus and by the prophets and apostles.

:29 "And the One who sent Me is with Me! He has not sent Me away." (He won't desert us either **Heb. 13:5**). Why? Because He always does what is pleasing to the Father. Jesus was operating by authentic Christianity! So can we. How? Walk in line with the Word. Who? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Why? To bring glory to God.

:30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. If you had been there and heard Jesus' words, how would you have responded? His claims were believed by some. Whether the faith indicated was genuine or not will be indicated by their response to **:31-32** (the context). Belief can only come from evidence, with revelation. You must begin by examining the evidence and by 'doing' the first step (**7:17**). So in **:31-32** He gave them more truth! "The majority, in spite of the evidence, refused to believe—choosing instead to remain self-righteous, worldly, unbelieving, and willfully ignorant to the end." They continued willfully operating by the desires of the flesh, giving in to the pressures of the world, and being under the god of this world (**Eph. 2:1-3**); it showed up in their walk as in **Eph. 4:17-19**.

What made the difference? The Cross. There we see Jesus for who He is... the awful reality of human sin...the love of God spelled out for us...a life lived pleasing to the Father. May we genuinely believe in Him! "We love You, the great I AM!", and I love traveling this journey with you, my friends. Joel

Dear fellow Light seekers, in **John 7:37** Jesus said, “**If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me & drink.**” What an offer! Now, added to the offer of quenching their thirst, Jesus offers living in the light rather than darkness. “One would think that sinners, hopelessly lost in the darkness, would flock to the Light. Yet in a strange paradox, people love the very darkness that ensnares them,” the sin that they’re slaves of. Jesus is in the treasury of the Temple, which is in the Court of the Women, so Jewish listeners only (show on map). Also remember, He’s basically stayed away from Jerusalem and Judea the last two years. Now He’s back! **Read 8:12-20. :12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world** [see 9:5, 12:46, the 2nd of the 7 “I am” statements]; **he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**” Jesus has always been shining, enlightening every man (**1:4,9**). Feast of Shelters.

Jesus is talking to the crowd, with the Pharisees overhearing. “**I AM the Light of the World.**” Earlier He claimed He was the Bread of Life (**6:35,48**), the living & true Bread from heaven (**6:51,58**). Now He says, “If you follow Me, you won’t be walking in the darkness.” Why? Because you’ll have Him, the Light!

In the Court of the Women where Jesus was speaking, 4 huge candelabras were lit: A reminder of the pillar of fire by which God had guided Israel in the wilderness. Now Jesus states that He—no one else beside Him—is that Light. **Read Heb. 1:3 the radiance of the Father’s glory and the exact representation of His nature.** Jesus helps us distinguish between that which is true, life, light, and that which is false, death, and darkness. How desperately we need Him.

:13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true (or valid).” The legalists, separatists, who had 1000s of rules and interpretations (from the OT, the Talmud, the Mishnah), said, “You are bearing witness about Yourself.” According to the OT Law, every fact in a legal matter had to be established by the testimony of more than one witness (**Num. 35:30, Dt. 17:6, 19:15**). Now, how did they ‘know’ His testimony wasn’t true, valid, reality? Ignorant of the facts, they hadn’t done their homework! They were judging Him only by the superficial, by external appearance (**7:24**). The assertions of Jesus needed to be tested by the evidence that existed (He was fulfilling OT prophecies: ancestry, birthplace). Jesus had earlier given this same group of legalists 4 other witnesses (in **5:31-47**): John the Baptist, His works, the Father, the Scriptures.

:14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true (or valid), for I know (1491 that which is seen, external form,) where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know (1491) where I come from and where I am going. Why was Jesus’ witness true? He knew who He was. He knew where He had come from and where He was going. A person can make such claims if they’re true! “I know where I came from (He’s constantly saying the Father sent Him (see **13:3**), just doing what the Father sent Him to do). **See 16:28.** “Merely because I claim certain things is no reason to reject them.” Examine the evidence! They were unaware of His earthly birthplace (**7:41-42,52**), let alone that He had always existed.

:15-16 “You judge [2919 determine, decide, choose; see :26] according to the flesh (4561 sarx, generally negative, of merely human origin or empowerment); I am not judging (2919) anyone. “You’re judging Me with all your human limitations, but I’m not judging anyone.” Jesus: secure in the knowledge of :14. “Though you lack the necessary knowledge to judge, you are constantly judging Me. You are doing this, moreover, according to earthly standards according to external appearance (superficially, externally).” Their judgment should have been based on God’s revelation (7:45-52). In the sense they meant, Jesus made it clear that He did not judge at all with their criteria.

:16 But even if I do judge (2919), My judgment (2920) is true (genuine, the real thing); for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me (see 3:17,34, 5:30,36,37). “If I did judge anyone, My judgment would be true because I’m not alone in My judgment. My judgment is true, the real thing, for it is a judgment in which My Father and I unite. I have along with Me the Father who sent Me.” He had mentioned His Father back in 2:16, 3:35, 4:21,23, 5:17-45, 6:27-57. He’s constantly mentioning His Father! Jesus is making Himself and His Father the issue. If one doesn’t know Jesus, one doesn’t know the Father either! (14:7). How this must have infuriated them!!

:17 Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true (or valid or admissible). They had the OT Scripture (Dt. 17:6, 19:15). 2 or 3 witnesses. The Father and the Son are certainly reliable! **:18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.** “I am one witness; My Father who sent Me is the second.” You can just see Jesus counting on His fingers—“One, two. I am #1! The Father is a fellow witness. He’s #2!” Jesus met the requirement of the OT (also see 5:31-47).

:19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know (1491) neither Me nor My Father; if you knew (1491) Me, you would know (1491) My Father also.” “Where is your Father?” Jesus replied, “Since you don’t know Me, you don’t know who My Father is either.” How sad! “Who I am and who sent Me”—Jesus is again making Himself the issue. The fact that they did not recognize Him for who and what He was provided the proof that they did not know Him. The whole history of Israel had been designed so the Jews would recognize their Messiah when He came (see Hebrews). The knowledge of the Father depended on knowing Him (see 1:18). The only answer to the person who sincerely asks, “Where is God?” is to say “Look at Jesus, the power and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:19-2:8).

:20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come. But He wasn’t arrested (7:30,45); why? Because His hour had not yet come (2:4, 7:6,30, 8:20, 12:23,27, 17:1). He was operating on God’s timetable, not man’s.

There was still time for these people, time to hear, turn around, face the Light, believe. But the time is not endless; there will not always be another chance. By this time, they had rejected the One who is the Bread of life (6:66), gives the water of life (7:37), and is the Light of life, the Light of the world (8:12).

Read 8:21-30. Just think: The world is living in darkness and loving it! Therefore, its wisdom and knowledge can't find God. "In light of overwhelming evidence, unbelief in Jesus is inexcusable." Even those who have not heard the good news of Jesus are still responsible for rejecting the truth that they have been given (**Rom. 1:18-21 and Rom. 2:14-15**).

:21 Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek (search for) Me, and will die in your sin [singular, a missing of a target]; **where I am going, you cannot come.**" Remember **7:32-36**. **I go away:** By means of His impending death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father, where He would receive the glory He had with the Father before the world was (**17:5,24**). **Die in your sin;** what is the sin? Unbelief: the rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God (**16:8-11**). By their refusal to receive Him and believe in His name, they had shut themselves off from God—spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

:22 So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" "Is He planning to commit suicide? What does He mean?" They would die in their sin of unbelief.

:23-24 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. :24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins [plural]; **for unless you believe that I AM He, you will die in your sins.**" Jesus answered, "You are from below and of this world. I am from above and not of this world. That's why I said you'll die in your sins. For unless you believe I AM (God's OT name), you'll die in your sins." He's showing them their need for a Deliverer, someone from above. (I AM!)

They were spiritually blinded (**2 Cor. 3:14, 4:4, Eph. 2:1-3**), limited to earthly thinking, pressures from the world, living by the strong desires of the flesh, according to their father, the devil (**8:44**). This is every unbeliever's story. "Materialism, humanism, immorality, pride, and selfishness are the world's hallmarks. Its opinions are wrong; its aims are selfish; its pleasures are sinful; its influences are demoralizing; its politics are corrupt; its honors are empty; its smiles are phony; its love is false & fickle." **Read 15:19, Eph. 2:12, Col. 1:13.**

:24 Into this world with its dishonored bodies, degraded passions, and depraved minds (**Rom. 1:24-32**) comes Jesus, and He is the Light. The responsibility is ours if we refuse to accept Him. Jesus' answer is the offer of the one and only way: "**Believe that I AM.**" YHWH, the OT name of God so sacred that the Jews refused to pronounce it. The reference is best explained in **Ex. 3:14** where God declared His name as I AM—Yahweh, the LORD of the OT. Not only were they repudiating Jesus' claims, they were completely rejecting His person. "I AM all I claim to be: the One sent by the Father, the One who is from above, the Son of man, the only-begotten Son of God, equal with God, the One who has life in Himself, the very essence of the Scriptures, the Bread of life, the Light of the world." Believe that Jesus is the I AM!

Believe: Already used about 50X. **Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal. 3:26, 1 Jn. 5:10-3.**

Those who reject Him can't be saved, but will die in their sins. They will die because they're sinners by nature and heredity, they've each sinned, and there is sin in the flesh. Only Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the Father's justice.

:25-26 So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you *from* the beginning? :26 I have many things to speak and to judge (2919, determine, decide, choose) concerning you, but He who sent Me is true (227 undeniable reality when tested); and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” “You, who are You?” Jesus answers with a question. Jesus replied, “I’m the one I’ve always claimed to be, I AM. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but I won’t. For I say only what I’ve heard from the One who sent Me, and He is true.” See **7:28. In every word of Jesus, the mind of the Father is expressed. See 1:1, 3:11, 5:19,30,32,37, 7:16. His words are meant for all, for the entire world.**

:27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. They still didn’t understand He was talking to them about His Father. Ignorance was blocking the minds of these men; pride was blinding their eyes (**2 Cor. 4:3-6**). Their ignorance was inexcusable (see **Eph. 4:17-19**).

:28-29 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. :29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left (did not send away) Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing (satisfying) to Him.” “When you have lifted up the Son of Man (on the cross; also see **3:14, 12:32-33**), then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on My own, but I speak as the FATHER taught Me.” “They would one day awaken to the terrifying realization that this One whom they despised was the One whom they should have worshiped.” It is the redemptive death of Jesus that explains Him, why He came, and who He is. His death and resurrection vindicated every claim ever made by Jesus and by the prophets and apostles.

:29 “And the One who sent Me is with Me! He has not sent Me away.” (He won’t desert us either **Heb. 13:5**). Why? Because He always does what is pleasing to the Father. Jesus was operating by authentic Christianity! So can we. How? Walk in line with the Word. Who? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Why? To bring glory to God.

:30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. If you had been there and heard Jesus’ words, how would you have responded? His claims were believed by some. Whether the faith indicated was genuine or not will be indicated by their response to **:31-32** (the context). Belief can only come from evidence, with revelation. You must begin by examining the evidence and by ‘doing’ the first step (**7:17**). So in **:31-32** He gave them more truth! “The majority, in spite of the evidence, refused to believe—choosing instead to remain self-righteous, worldly, unbelieving, and willfully ignorant to the end.” They continued willfully operating by the desires of the flesh, giving in to the pressures of the world, and being under the god of this world (**Eph. 2:1-3**); it showed up in their walk as in **Eph. 4:17-19**.

What made the difference? The Cross. There we see Jesus for who He is... the awful reality of human sin...the love of God spelled out for us...a life lived pleasing to the Father. May we genuinely believe in Him! “We love You, the great I AM!”, and I love traveling this journey with you, my friends. Joel

Dear fellow Light seekers, in **John 7:37** Jesus said, “**If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me & drink.**” What an offer! Now, added to the offer of quenching their thirst, Jesus offers living in the light rather than darkness. “One would think that sinners, hopelessly lost in the darkness, would flock to the Light. Yet in a strange paradox, people love the very darkness that ensnares them,” the sin that they’re slaves of. Jesus is in the treasury of the Temple, which is in the Court of the Women, so Jewish listeners only (show on map). Also remember, He’s basically stayed away from Jerusalem and Judea the last two years. Now He’s back! **Read 8:12-20. :12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world** [see 9:5, 12:46, the 2nd of the 7 “I am” statements]; **he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**” Jesus has always been shining, enlightening every man (1:4,9). Feast of Shelters.

Jesus is talking to the crowd, with the Pharisees overhearing. “**I AM the Light of the World.**” Earlier He claimed He was the Bread of Life (6:35,48), the living & true Bread from heaven (6:51,58). Now He says, “If you follow Me, you won’t be walking in the darkness.” Why? Because you’ll have Him, the Light!

In the Court of the Women where Jesus was speaking, 4 huge candelabras were lit: A reminder of the pillar of fire by which God had guided Israel in the wilderness. Now Jesus states that He—no one else beside Him—is that Light. **Read Heb. 1:3 the radiance of the Father’s glory and the exact representation of His nature.** Jesus helps us distinguish between that which is true, life, light, and that which is false, death, and darkness. How desperately we need Him.

:13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true (or valid).” The legalists, separatists, who had 1000s of rules and interpretations (from the OT, the Talmud, the Mishnah), said, “You are bearing witness about Yourself.” According to the OT Law, every fact in a legal matter had to be established by the testimony of more than one witness (Num. 35:30, Dt. 17:6, 19:15). Now, how did they ‘know’ His testimony wasn’t true, valid, reality? Ignorant of the facts, they hadn’t done their homework! They were judging Him only by the superficial, by external appearance (7:24). The assertions of Jesus needed to be tested by the evidence that existed (He was fulfilling OT prophecies: ancestry, birthplace). Jesus had earlier given this same group of legalists 4 other witnesses (in 5:31-47): John the Baptist, His works, the Father, the Scriptures.

:14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true (or valid), for I know (1491 that which is seen, external form,) where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know (1491) where I come from and where I am going. Why was Jesus’ witness true? He knew who He was. He knew where He had come from and where He was going. A person can make such claims if they’re true! “I know where I came from (He’s constantly saying the Father sent Him (see 13:3), just doing what the Father sent Him to do). **See 16:28.** “Merely because I claim certain things is no reason to reject them.” Examine the evidence! They were unaware of His earthly birthplace (7:41-42,52), let alone that He had always existed.

Dear fellow Light seekers, in **John 7:37** Jesus said, “**If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me & drink.**” What an offer! Now, added to the offer of quenching their thirst, Jesus offers living in the light rather than darkness. “One would think that sinners, hopelessly lost in the darkness, would flock to the Light. Yet in a strange paradox, people love the very darkness that ensnares them,” the sin that they’re slaves of. Jesus is in the treasury of the Temple, which is in the Court of the Women, so Jewish listeners only (show on map). Also remember, He’s basically stayed away from Jerusalem and Judea the last two years. Now He’s back! **Read 8:12-20. :12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world** [see 9:5, 12:46, the 2nd of the 7 “I am” statements]; **he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**” Jesus has always been shining, enlightening every man (1:4,9). Feast of Shelters.

Jesus is talking to the crowd, with the Pharisees overhearing. “**I AM the Light of the World.**” Earlier He claimed He was the Bread of Life (6:35,48), the living & true Bread from heaven (6:51,58). Now He says, “If you follow Me, you won’t be walking in the darkness.” Why? Because you’ll have Him, the Light!

In the Court of the Women where Jesus was speaking, 4 huge candelabras were lit: A reminder of the pillar of fire by which God had guided Israel in the wilderness. Now Jesus states that He—no one else beside Him—is that Light. **Read Heb. 1:3 the radiance of the Father’s glory and the exact representation of His nature.** Jesus helps us distinguish between that which is true, life, light, and that which is false, death, and darkness. How desperately we need Him.

:13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true (or valid).” The legalists, separatists, who had 1000s of rules and interpretations (from the OT, the Talmud, the Mishnah), said, “You are bearing witness about Yourself.” According to the OT Law, every fact in a legal matter had to be established by the testimony of more than one witness (Num. 35:30, Dt. 17:6, 19:15). Now, how did they ‘know’ His testimony wasn’t true, valid, reality? Ignorant of the facts, they hadn’t done their homework! They were judging Him only by the superficial, by external appearance (7:24). The assertions of Jesus needed to be tested by the evidence that existed (He was fulfilling OT prophecies: ancestry, birthplace). Jesus had earlier given this same group of legalists 4 other witnesses (in 5:31-47): John the Baptist, His works, the Father, the Scriptures.

:14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true (or valid), for I know (1491 that which is seen, external form,) where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know (1491) where I come from and where I am going. Why was Jesus’ witness true? He knew who He was. He knew where He had come from and where He was going. A person can make such claims if they’re true! “I know where I came from (He’s constantly saying the Father sent Him (see 13:3), just doing what the Father sent Him to do). **See 16:28.** “Merely because I claim certain things is no reason to reject them.” Examine the evidence! They were unaware of His earthly birthplace (7:41-42,52), let alone that He had always existed.

:15-16 “You judge [2919 determine, decide, choose; see :26] according to the flesh (4561 sarx, generally negative, of merely human origin or empowerment); I am not judging (2919) anyone. “You’re judging Me with all your human limitations, but I’m not judging anyone.” Jesus: secure in the knowledge of :14. “Though you lack the necessary knowledge to judge, you are constantly judging Me. You are doing this, moreover, according to earthly standards according to external appearance (superficially, externally).” Their judgment should have been based on God’s revelation (7:45-52). In the sense they meant, Jesus made it clear that He did not judge at all with their criteria.

:16 But even if I do judge (2919), My judgment (2920) is true (genuine, the real thing); for I am not alone *in it*, but I and the Father who sent Me (see 3:17,34, 5:30,36,37). “If I did judge anyone, My judgment would be true because I’m not alone in My judgment. My judgment is true, the real thing, for it is a judgment in which My Father and I unite. I have along with Me the Father who sent Me.” He had mentioned His Father back in 2:16, 3:35, 4:21,23, 5:17-45, 6:27-57. He’s constantly mentioning His Father! Jesus is making Himself and His Father the issue. If one doesn’t know Jesus, one doesn’t know the Father either! (14:7). How this must have infuriated them!!

:17 Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true (or valid or admissible). They had the OT Scripture (Dt. 17:6, 19:15). 2 or 3 witnesses. The Father and the Son are certainly reliable! **:18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.** “I am one witness; My Father who sent Me is the second.” You can just see Jesus counting on His fingers—“One, two. I am #1! The Father is a fellow witness. He’s #2!” Jesus met the requirement of the OT (also see 5:31-47).

:19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know (1491) neither Me nor My Father; if you knew (1491) Me, you would know (1491) My Father also.” “Where is your Father?” Jesus replied, “Since you don’t know Me, you don’t know who My Father is either.” How sad! “Who I am and who sent Me”—Jesus is again making Himself the issue. The fact that they did not recognize Him for who and what He was provided the proof that they did not know Him. The whole history of Israel had been designed so the Jews would recognize their Messiah when He came (see Hebrews). The knowledge of the Father depended on knowing Him (see 1:18). The only answer to the person who sincerely asks, “Where is God?” is to say “Look at Jesus, the power and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:19-2:8).

:20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come. But He wasn’t arrested (7:30,45); why? Because His hour had not yet come (2:4, 7:6,30, 8:20, 12:23,27, 17:1). He was operating on God’s timetable, not man’s.

There was still time for these people, time to hear, turn around, face the Light, believe. But the time is not endless; there will not always be another chance. By this time, they had rejected the One who is the Bread of life (6:66), gives the water of life (7:37), and is the Light of life, the Light of the world (8:12).

:15-16 “You judge [2919 determine, decide, choose; see :26] according to the flesh (4561 sarx, generally negative, of merely human origin or empowerment); I am not judging (2919) anyone. “You’re judging Me with all your human limitations, but I’m not judging anyone.” Jesus: secure in the knowledge of :14. “Though you lack the necessary knowledge to judge, you are constantly judging Me. You are doing this, moreover, according to earthly standards according to external appearance (superficially, externally).” Their judgment should have been based on God’s revelation (7:45-52). In the sense they meant, Jesus made it clear that He did not judge at all with their criteria.

:16 But even if I do judge (2919), My judgment (2920) is true (genuine, the real thing); for I am not alone *in it*, but I and the Father who sent Me (see 3:17,34, 5:30,36,37). “If I did judge anyone, My judgment would be true because I’m not alone in My judgment. My judgment is true, the real thing, for it is a judgment in which My Father and I unite. I have along with Me the Father who sent Me.” He had mentioned His Father back in 2:16, 3:35, 4:21,23, 5:17-45, 6:27-57. He’s constantly mentioning His Father! Jesus is making Himself and His Father the issue. If one doesn’t know Jesus, one doesn’t know the Father either! (14:7). How this must have infuriated them!!

:17 Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true (or valid or admissible). They had the OT Scripture (Dt. 17:6, 19:15). 2 or 3 witnesses. The Father and the Son are certainly reliable! **:18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.** “I am one witness; My Father who sent Me is the second.” You can just see Jesus counting on His fingers—“One, two. I am #1! The Father is a fellow witness. He’s #2!” Jesus met the requirement of the OT (also see 5:31-47).

:19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know (1491) neither Me nor My Father; if you knew (1491) Me, you would know (1491) My Father also.” “Where is your Father?” Jesus replied, “Since you don’t know Me, you don’t know who My Father is either.” How sad! “Who I am and who sent Me”—Jesus is again making Himself the issue. The fact that they did not recognize Him for who and what He was provided the proof that they did not know Him. The whole history of Israel had been designed so the Jews would recognize their Messiah when He came (see Hebrews). The knowledge of the Father depended on knowing Him (see 1:18). The only answer to the person who sincerely asks, “Where is God?” is to say “Look at Jesus, the power and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:19-2:8).

:20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come. But He wasn’t arrested (7:30,45); why? Because His hour had not yet come (2:4, 7:6,30, 8:20, 12:23,27, 17:1). He was operating on God’s timetable, not man’s.

There was still time for these people, time to hear, turn around, face the Light, believe. But the time is not endless; there will not always be another chance. By this time, they had rejected the One who is the Bread of life (6:66), gives the water of life (7:37), and is the Light of life, the Light of the world (8:12).

Read 8:21-30. Just think: The world is living in darkness and loving it! Therefore, its wisdom and knowledge can't find God. "In light of overwhelming evidence, unbelief in Jesus is inexcusable." Even those who have not heard the good news of Jesus are still responsible for rejecting the truth that they have been given (**Rom. 1:18-21 and Rom. 2:14-15**).

:21 Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek (search for) Me, and will die in your sin [singular, a missing of a target]; where I am going, you cannot come." Remember **7:32-36**. **I go away:** By means of His impending death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father, where He would receive the glory He had with the Father before the world was (**17:5,24**). **Die in your sin;** what is the sin? Unbelief: the rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God (**16:8-11**). By their refusal to receive Him and believe in His name, they had shut themselves off from God—spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

:22 So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" "Is He planning to commit suicide? What does He mean?" They would die in their sin of unbelief.

:23-24 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. :24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins [plural]; for unless you believe that I AM He, you will die in your sins." Jesus answered, "You are from below and of this world. I am from above and not of this world. That's why I said you'll die in your sins. For unless you believe I AM (God's OT name), you'll die in your sins." He's showing them their need for a Deliverer, someone from above. (I AM!)

They were spiritually blinded (**2 Cor. 3:14, 4:4, Eph. 2:1-3**), limited to earthly thinking, pressures from the world, living by the strong desires of the flesh, according to their father, the devil (**8:44**). This is every unbeliever's story. "Materialism, humanism, immorality, pride, and selfishness are the world's hallmarks. Its opinions are wrong; its aims are selfish; its pleasures are sinful; its influences are demoralizing; its politics are corrupt; its honors are empty; its smiles are phony; its love is false & fickle." **Read 15:19, Eph. 2:12, Col. 1:13.**

:24 Into this world with its dishonored bodies, degraded passions, and depraved minds (**Rom. 1:24-32**) comes Jesus, and He is the Light. The responsibility is ours if we refuse to accept Him. Jesus' answer is the offer of the one and only way: "**Believe that I AM.**" YHWH, the OT name of God so sacred that the Jews refused to pronounce it. The reference is best explained in **Ex. 3:14** where God declared His name as I AM—Yahweh, the LORD of the OT. Not only were they repudiating Jesus' claims, they were completely rejecting His person. "I AM all I claim to be: the One sent by the Father, the One who is from above, the Son of man, the only-begotten Son of God, equal with God, the One who has life in Himself, the very essence of the Scriptures, the Bread of life, the Light of the world." Believe that Jesus is the I AM!

Believe: Already used about 50X. **Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal. 3:26, 1 Jn. 5:10-3.** Those who reject Him can't be saved, but will die in their sins. They will die because they're sinners by nature and heredity, they've each sinned, and there is sin in the flesh. Only Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the Father's justice.

Read 8:21-30. Just think: The world is living in darkness and loving it! Therefore, its wisdom and knowledge can't find God. "In light of overwhelming evidence, unbelief in Jesus is inexcusable." Even those who have not heard the good news of Jesus are still responsible for rejecting the truth that they have been given (**Rom. 1:18-21 and Rom. 2:14-15**).

:21 Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek (search for) Me, and will die in your sin [singular, a missing of a target]; where I am going, you cannot come." Remember **7:32-36**. **I go away:** By means of His impending death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father, where He would receive the glory He had with the Father before the world was (**17:5,24**). **Die in your sin;** what is the sin? Unbelief: the rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God (**16:8-11**). By their refusal to receive Him and believe in His name, they had shut themselves off from God—spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

:22 So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" "Is He planning to commit suicide? What does He mean?" They would die in their sin of unbelief.

:23-24 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. :24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins [plural]; for unless you believe that I AM He, you will die in your sins." Jesus answered, "You are from below and of this world. I am from above and not of this world. That's why I said you'll die in your sins. For unless you believe I AM (God's OT name), you'll die in your sins." He's showing them their need for a Deliverer, someone from above. (I AM!)

They were spiritually blinded (**2 Cor. 3:14, 4:4, Eph. 2:1-3**), limited to earthly thinking, pressures from the world, living by the strong desires of the flesh, according to their father, the devil (**8:44**). This is every unbeliever's story. "Materialism, humanism, immorality, pride, and selfishness are the world's hallmarks. Its opinions are wrong; its aims are selfish; its pleasures are sinful; its influences are demoralizing; its politics are corrupt; its honors are empty; its smiles are phony; its love is false & fickle." **Read 15:19, Eph. 2:12, Col. 1:13.**

:24 Into this world with its dishonored bodies, degraded passions, and depraved minds (**Rom. 1:24-32**) comes Jesus, and He is the Light. The responsibility is ours if we refuse to accept Him. Jesus' answer is the offer of the one and only way: "**Believe that I AM.**" YHWH, the OT name of God so sacred that the Jews refused to pronounce it. The reference is best explained in **Ex. 3:14** where God declared His name as I AM—Yahweh, the LORD of the OT. Not only were they repudiating Jesus' claims, they were completely rejecting His person. "I AM all I claim to be: the One sent by the Father, the One who is from above, the Son of man, the only-begotten Son of God, equal with God, the One who has life in Himself, the very essence of the Scriptures, the Bread of life, the Light of the world." Believe that Jesus is the I AM!

Believe: Already used about 50X. **Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal. 3:26, 1 Jn. 5:10-3.** Those who reject Him can't be saved, but will die in their sins. They will die because they're sinners by nature and heredity, they've each sinned, and there is sin in the flesh. Only Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the Father's justice.

:25-26 So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you *from the beginning*? :26 I have many things to speak and to judge (2919, determine, decide, choose) concerning you, but He who sent Me is true (227 undeniable reality when tested); and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” “You, who are You?” Jesus answers with a question. Jesus replied, “I’m the one I’ve always claimed to be, I AM. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but I won’t. For I say only what I’ve heard from the One who sent Me, and He is true.” See 7:28. In every word of Jesus, the mind of the Father is expressed. See 1:1, 3:11, 5:19,30,32,37, 7:16. His words are meant for all, for the entire world.

:27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. They still didn’t understand He was talking to them about His Father. Ignorance was blocking the minds of these men; pride was blinding their eyes (2 Cor. 4:3-6). Their ignorance was inexcusable (see Eph. 4:17-19).

:28-29 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM ~~He~~, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. :29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left (did not send away) Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing (satisfying) to Him.” “When you have lifted up the Son of Man (on the cross; also see 3:14, 12:32-33), then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on My own, but I speak as the FATHER taught Me.” “They would one day awaken to the terrifying realization that this One whom they despised was the One whom they should have worshiped.” It is the redemptive death of Jesus that explains Him, why He came, and who He is. His death and resurrection vindicated every claim ever made by Jesus and by the prophets and apostles.

:29 “And the One who sent Me is with Me! He has not sent Me away.” (He won’t desert us either Heb. 13:5). Why? Because He always does what is pleasing to the Father. Jesus was operating by authentic Christianity! So can we. How? Walk in line with the Word. Who? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Why? To bring glory to God.

:30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. If you had been there and heard Jesus’ words, how would you have responded? His claims were believed by some. Whether the faith indicated was genuine or not will be indicated by their response to :31-32 (the context). Belief can only come from evidence, with revelation. You must begin by examining the evidence and by ‘doing’ the first step (7:17). So in :31-32 He gave them more truth! “The majority, in spite of the evidence, refused to believe—choosing instead to remain self-righteous, worldly, unbelieving, and willfully ignorant to the end.” They continued willfully operating by the desires of the flesh, giving in to the pressures of the world, and being under the god of this world (Eph. 2:1-3); it showed up in their walk as in Eph. 4:17-19.

What made the difference? The Cross. There we see Jesus for who He is... the awful reality of human sin... the love of God spelled out for us... a life lived pleasing to the Father. May we genuinely believe in Him! “We love You, the great I AM!”, and I love traveling this journey with you, my friends. Joel

:25-26 So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you *from the beginning*? :26 I have many things to speak and to judge (2919, determine, decide, choose) concerning you, but He who sent Me is true (227 undeniable reality when tested); and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” “You, who are You?” Jesus answers with a question. Jesus replied, “I’m the one I’ve always claimed to be, I AM. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but I won’t. For I say only what I’ve heard from the One who sent Me, and He is true.” See 7:28. In every word of Jesus, the mind of the Father is expressed. See 1:1, 3:11, 5:19,30,32,37, 7:16. His words are meant for all, for the entire world.

:27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. They still didn’t understand He was talking to them about His Father. Ignorance was blocking the minds of these men; pride was blinding their eyes (2 Cor. 4:3-6). Their ignorance was inexcusable (see Eph. 4:17-19).

:28-29 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM ~~He~~, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. :29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left (did not send away) Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing (satisfying) to Him.” “When you have lifted up the Son of Man (on the cross; also see 3:14, 12:32-33), then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on My own, but I speak as the FATHER taught Me.” “They would one day awaken to the terrifying realization that this One whom they despised was the One whom they should have worshiped.” It is the redemptive death of Jesus that explains Him, why He came, and who He is. His death and resurrection vindicated every claim ever made by Jesus and by the prophets and apostles.

:29 “And the One who sent Me is with Me! He has not sent Me away.” (He won’t desert us either Heb. 13:5). Why? Because He always does what is pleasing to the Father. Jesus was operating by authentic Christianity! So can we. How? Walk in line with the Word. Who? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Why? To bring glory to God.

:30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. If you had been there and heard Jesus’ words, how would you have responded? His claims were believed by some. Whether the faith indicated was genuine or not will be indicated by their response to :31-32 (the context). Belief can only come from evidence, with revelation. You must begin by examining the evidence and by ‘doing’ the first step (7:17). So in :31-32 He gave them more truth! “The majority, in spite of the evidence, refused to believe—choosing instead to remain self-righteous, worldly, unbelieving, and willfully ignorant to the end.” They continued willfully operating by the desires of the flesh, giving in to the pressures of the world, and being under the god of this world (Eph. 2:1-3); it showed up in their walk as in Eph. 4:17-19.

What made the difference? The Cross. There we see Jesus for who He is... the awful reality of human sin... the love of God spelled out for us... a life lived pleasing to the Father. May we genuinely believe in Him! “We love You, the great I AM!”, and I love traveling this journey with you, my friends. Joel