

HANDOUT 1: The Gospel of John chapter 8

John 8:12-20: The Light of the World Discourse [Jesus' witness to Himself]

Verses 12-20 cover three basic topics:

1. Jesus as "The Light"
2. Jesus' witness to himself
3. The question of judgment

There is also an obvious parallel between this discussion of Jesus and the Pharisees and His earlier verbal duel with them in chapter 7:

John Chapter 7		John Chapter 8
7:27-28	Where did Jesus come from?—His origins	8:14
7:33-35	Where is Jesus going?	8:21
7:24	Judgment by human standards	8:15
7:28	Knowing Jesus and the One who sent Him	8:19
7:30	The inability to arrest Him because the hour had not yet come	8:20

John 8:12 *"When Jesus spoke to the people again, he said: 'I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark but will have the light of life.'"*

Once again we have Jesus identifying Himself with the significant and symbolic words: I AM, *ego ami*, which reminds us of Yahweh's revelation of Himself to Moses 3 times as I AM in Exodus 3:13-14. In John's Gospel Jesus will use these words 26 times and in 7 different metaphors [each used with a predicate nominative]:

1. 6:35	<i>"I AM the bread of life"</i>
2. 8:12	<i>"I AM the light of the world"</i>
3. 10:7	<i>"I AM the gate for the sheep"</i>
4. 10:11	<i>"I AM the good shepherd"</i>
5. 11:25	<i>"I AM the resurrection and the life"</i>
6. 14:6	<i>"I AM the way and the truth and the life"</i>
7. 15:1	<i>"I AM the true vine"</i>

In Matthew's Gospel the disciples are told *"You are the light of the world."* There is no contradiction because the disciples, like John the Baptist, are the light of the world only as they reflect Jesus Christ, the true Light.

HANDOUT # 2 for Chapter 8

“See how the words of the Lord accord with the truth of the Psalm: ‘With thee is the fountain of life; in thy light do we see light’ [Psalms 36:10]. The Psalmist connects light with the source of life and the Lord speaks of a ‘light of life.’ When we are thirsty, we look for a fountain; when we are in darkness we look for light...[...]. Not so with God: he is light and fountain. He who shines for you to enable you to see, flows for you to enable you to drink.” St. Augustan, In. Ioannis Evangelium,34.6

Table #1: Parallel themes in 7:27-30 and 8:14-20. Verses 12-20 cover three basic topics: 1) Jesus as “The Light”; 2) Jesus’ witness to himself; and 3) the question of judgment. There is also an obvious parallel between this discussion of Jesus and the Pharisees and His earlier verbal duel with them in chapter 7:

John Chapter 7	Topic	John Chapter 8
7:27-28	Where did Jesus come from?—His origins	8:14
7:33-35	Where is Jesus going?	8:21
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Table #2: Parallels with chapter 7:33-36 and 8:21-22

Chapter 7	Topic	Chapter 8
7:33b	Jesus is going away	8:21a
7:34a	He tells them they will look for Him	8:21a
7:34b	Where He is going they cannot come	8:21c
7:35	Misunderstanding by the Jews	8:22
7:36	The Jews repeat Jesus’ statement	8:22

Table #3: In John’s Gospel Jesus will use these words 26 times and in 7 different metaphors [used with a predicate nominative]:

1. 6:35	<i>“I AM the bread of life”</i>
2. 8:12	<i>“I AM the light of the world”</i>
3. 10:7	<i>“I AM the gate for the sheep”</i>
4. 10:11	<i>“I AM the good shepherd”</i>
5. 11:25	<i>“I AM the resurrection and the life”</i>
6. 14:6	<i>“I AM the way and the truth and the life”</i>
7. 15:1	<i>“I AM the true vine”</i>

Table #4: The use of I AM [Ego Ami] in reference to God’s covenant name Yahweh:

In chapter 8 John uses the words I AM with no predicate 3 times:

8:24	<i>"I have told you already: You will die in your sins. Yes, if you do not believe that I AM."</i>
8:28	<i>"When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I AM."</i>
8:58	<i>"In all truth I tell you, before Abraham ever was, I AM."</i>

*I AM with no predicate is also used in 13:19 *"When it does happen, you may believe that I AM."*

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