

Christian Apologetics (05)
[I Am The Light of the World]

The word apologetics is derived from the Greek word, apologia. Apologia refers to a speech made in defense or a verbal response.

“Christian apologetics is a field of Christian theology that presents a rational basis for the Christian faith and defends the faith against objections, and exposes the perceived flaws of other world views.” (Wikipedia)

All of the lessons in the series entitled, Christian apologetics, will be taken from the Gospel of John.

Today will study the seventh outrageous **I AM** claim made by Jesus in the Gospel of John:

The Son of Man
The Messiah
The Bread of Life
The Light to the world

Today’s lesson occurred in the treasury section of the Jewish temple - “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.” (Jn.8:20)

The background to this lesson is very important to it – “Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. The Scribes and the Pharisees brought a **woman caught in adultery**, and having set her in the **center of the court**.” (Jn.8:2-3, 9)

Jesus was teaching in the court of the women of the temple when He was interrupted by hostile religious leaders with the adulterous woman (Jn.8:6).

After these accusers left, he resumed teaching the crowd on the subject of “**I Am the Light of the World**” (Jn.8:9-12).

We will examine our lesson text by the following two objections and Jesus’ apologetical answers.

- (Jn.8:12-13) **First objection** came from some of the Pharisees that were still there: Jesus’ testimony regarding sin (Jn.8:7-11).
- (Jn.8:14-18) **Jesus’ apologetic response:** Judgment and testimony of two by Law (Father and Son) Deut.19:15-21)
- (Jn.8:19a) **Second objection** from these Pharisees – “Where is your father?”
- (Jn.8:19b-20) **Jesus’ apologetic response** – this is what you are missing: “to know Me is to know My Father.”
[“**And no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.**”]

<p>This lesson will study five aspects of the outrageous claim made by Jesus “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD” he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.” (Jn.8:12)</p>
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1. This is the only time Jesus made the statement or taught on the subject of I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD in John 8.

Yet the outrageous claim, **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**, is among one of the most quoted declarations made by Jesus (Jn.8:12). The entire chapter was taken up by defending forgiving the adulterous woman (Jn.8:7-11)

(Jn.8:24, 28). “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins.”

Notice how John 8 ends - “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I AM**.” Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.” (Jn.8:58-59)

2. When Jesus declared that He was the Light of the World, He was giving a typology of the golden candlestick of the temple.

It was the only light inside the temple. It was the light by which the priest performed their worship service. There was no natural light inside the temple.

There was only natural light in the court of the woman and treasury. Therefore Jesus was making a bigger doctrinal point of typology when He declared He was the Light of the World in court of women.

3. The golden candlestick of the temple had seven candlesticks.

Moses was instructed to build a golden lamp stand for the tabernacle (Ex.25:31-39). Scholars believe the LIGHT was to represent the pillar of fire (divine presence) of the Exodus (Exc.13:21-22; Deut.1:33; Neh.9:12; 1 Cor.10:1).

Most scholars believe the seven stood for the seven days of creation. The middle one represented the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28/ Lord of Sabbath).

Revelation 1:12-13 has seven golden lamp stands with the Son of Man standing in the middle in priestly-king robe (Rev.1:20; 2:1).

4. When Jesus declared that He was the Light of the World, He was declaring that He was the Light of God in the world (John 9:5; 12:44-46).

(1 John 1:5) “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

(1 John 1:7) “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son **cleanses** us from all sin.”

(1 Tim.6:16) “Who (Lord Jesus Christ) alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.”

5. Faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ places the Light of God inside every church age believer

(John 1:8-9) “He (John Baptizer) was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

(John 1:4-5) “In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. The Light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (2 Tim.1:10; Acts 26:18, 23; Col.1:12-13; 1 Pet.2:9) (Eph.5:8; 6:12)

Divine Light exposes spiritual darkness of AOS (John 3:16-21; 12:35-36) and OSN (1 John 1:6-8)

(2 Cor.4:6) “For God who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”