

## Kostenberger Chapter 8

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Answer the following questions

### **1. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the symbolism underlying the Feast of Tabernacle?**

The "Feast" is a celebration of God's provision for his people while they wandered in the wilderness. Jesus goes to the Temple courts and starts to teach. The Jews were amazed at what he was saying because he had no rabbinic training. Jesus responds by saying, "he speaks not from himself, but from God" (vv. 16-18). The Jews become so upset that they charge him with being possessed by the devil. Jesus noted that the major issue was still concerning him healing a lame man on the Sabbath day (5:21-24). At the end of the Festival, John points out that Jesus proclaims that if anyone believes in Him, "streams of living water will flow from within him" (v. 37b -38). It is through him they will never thirst again. The water-pouring ceremonies conveyed this fulfilling symbolism of the Feast. These ceremonies reflected the blessings that God bestowed on his people in the wilderness.

### **2. Trace representative questions regarding Jesus' messiahship through John's Gospel and show how John uses these to demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ.**

John connects the Old Testament teaching to Jesus' messiahship by answering questions concerning who Jesus was/is. John points out that the Messiah, a political person they believed, would restore Israel to its former glory. That Jesus is /was a mysterious, eternal origin and not a mere man. Jesus has provided many signs of his messianic identity (seven). Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the line of David. Jesus will live forever, yet he will be crucified to atone for man's sins, which is following God's will and has been predicted in Scripture. Finally, Jesus the Messiah has risen from the Dead.

### **3. Trace the Johannine motif of light and darkness through the first half of the Gospel.**

The first half of John's Gospel presents several thematic strands. One being "the Word's participation in creation" (1:3). Then John contrasts literal light with darkness to show the moral difference between spiritual life and spiritual death. In chapter 8, John's symbolism of the Feast of the Tabernacle/torch – lighting ceremonies pointed to how Jesus fulfills the essence of Jewish festivals (8:12). The light in chapter 9 symbolizes the continuity between Jesus being at the feast and his healing of a man who was blind at birth in chapter 9. Meanwhile, John uses a light motif through the entire first half of his Gospel. The light motif is seen in the Prologue (1:4,5,7,8 and 9) to the concluding section (12:35-46). The expression "light" can be found in the following passages, 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 5:35; 8:12; 9:5; 11:9-10; and 12:35-46 (see page 114). John links the term light with life in chapter 1 verse 4 (in him was life). In chapter 8 verse 12, the two terms "the light and life." Yet, John does use the term life as often as he uses light. Light is sometimes used as a metaphor for eternal life (spiritual and moral). As per John, "life

lived without Christ is a life lived in spiritual darkness” (page 115). Christ is the light of the world. He is the source of life eternal.