

Joint Heirs
Fred Chay

Who is Jesus?
“Who Do You Make Yourself Out To BE?”
John 8:12-30
“I Am HE”

Introduction

The burden of the gospel of John is to provide a clear and correct understanding of who Jesus is concerning His authority and identity. The two are linked together and tied to the proper understanding of the law and the prophets.

Theological Context

Jesus is the Logos 1:1
The Explanation of the God 1:14, 18
The Lamb of God 1:29, 3:16
The Water of Life 4
The Bread of Life 6
The Authority of God 6-7
The Messiah like Moses 6-7 (Deut 18)
The Teacher of the Law to the teachers of the Law 4, 6-7
The Forgiver of Sins 4,6,7, 8:1-11

Structural Context

The gospel is a narrative, a story. Stories contain location, temporal indicators, atmosphere, characters, plot, tension, climax, resolution. All of these are used to reveal the structure of a good story. We are looking at a majestic and masterful story that contains all the marks of literary divinity.

Literary Context

The unit of thought is seen in the wrapping of the section around Jesus hiding in secret because the Jewish multitude and the religious leaders seeking to kill Jesus. But his hour had not yet come 7:1-2- 8:59

Cultural Context

Feast of Booths included a Water celebration, Light celebration and a Theological affirmation. Notice the use of temporal indicators. (Start.....Middle...End of the feast)

Thematic Context

The crux of the issue in Chapters 7-8 and the entire book for that matter is- What is the authority and identity of Jesus? Hence, the issue is seen by two questions that the religious leaders ask: “Where is your father?” (8:19) & “Who are you?” (8:24) 2 sections.

Exposition 8:12-30

Section 1 Issue of Authority :12-20

The Structure of Section 1

Introduction :12a

Body :13-19

Summary :20

The Story in Section 1

I. The Introduction :12a

“Again therefore Jesus spoke to them saying”

II. The Theme of Authority 12b-19

A. Declaration of Jesus

Witness of the Father

Witness of Jesus :12 “I am He”. Εγώ ειμι

B. Doubt of the Leaders

“Where is your father?”

C. The Summary: 20

Location indicator- Timing indicator (Not His hour- 2:4, 7:6, 30, 8:20)

Section 2 Issue of Identity 8:21-30

The Structure of Section 2

Introduction 21a

Body :21b-29

Summary :30

The Story of Section 2

I. The Introduction

“He said therefore again to them...”

II. The Theme of Identity

A. The Claim of Jesus

“I Am” Ex 3:14 “I Am that I Am” 8:58 Self and Eternal Existence

“I Am He” 8:24 εγώ ειμι

1. The Greek Grammar

“I Am He”

(subject) (verb) (Implied Predicate Nominative)

The predicate nominative is *approximately* the same as the subject and is joined to it by an equative verb (be or become), whether stated or implied. The PN normally describes a larger category (or *state*) to which the Subject belongs.

The usual relationship between the two is that *the predicate nominative describes the class to which the subject belongs*. I (Jesus) am He (God) This answers the Jews question of “where is your father?” and the implied question “Who are you” that they asked later. (Remember the Prologue 1:1-18)

2. The Cultural Context (Feast of Booths)

* Water Ceremony- The Water of Life 7:37-39 (John 3, Rev 21:6, 22:17)

* Light Ceremony- The Light of the World 8:12-13
Context- OT Pillar of light Ex 13:17-22

Concept- NT Jesus is the light (John 1:1-2 Light and Life)
(Rev 22:5 No Sun But the SON for light)

* The Theological Affirmation 8:14
OT Context

Living in tent (OT) reminded them of God in their midst Ex 25-39
Tabernacle is where God visited the people
The feast of Booths included reading from texts to honor God and remind people of God- like at Christmas we sing certain songs / quote certain texts Isa 7,9, Matt. 1 Luke 1

In Feast of Tabernacles they quoted certain texts
- Deut 6:4 Shema- “Hear Oh Israel the Lord is our God the Lord is one.”
- Psalm 115:9-12 Trust in Lord HE is...He is... HE is...
- Psalm 46 God, God, God He, He, He, I will.. I Will...
- Isaiah 43:1-13 I, I Am HE
- Isaiah 46:8-9 I am God and there is no one like me
- Deut 32:39 High point in Song of Moses
“I, I He” Ani Ani Hu “I, I (AM) He” and there is no God before me.”
2 pronouns (no verb)

NT Context

By the first century Ani Hu was the all inclusive summary of Gods self revelatory declaration.

Rabi Hillel "When Ani is here all is here. When Ani is not here who is here."

At the Feast of Tab. The priest would chant and sing out Ani Hu

B. The Clarification of the Leaders “Who are you? :25

C. The Conclusion of Jesus :28-29

1- When you lift up...3:14 12:32

2- The Son of Man 14x in John 1:51,3:13,14 5:27, 6:27,53,62, 8:28
9:35, (**12:23, 34 x2 13:31) **See Dan 7:13 and Mk 14:21, 62

3- “I am He” :28. (8:58 punch line)

III. The Summary:30

“As He said these things, many came to believe in Him.” (1:12, 3:16, 5:24)

All other gods of the today or any day are NOT. Jude 1:25

Today there are many false gods; people and institutions run by people who want to be worshiped, venerated, revered, idolized and obeyed. They are not God and must not be obeyed. Only God is God and only God is Great and Greatly to be Praised.

Points to Ponder

1. People say Jesus never claimed to be God. But He did.

2. We need to tell people what we needed to hear and what they need to hear
“Unless you believe that I Am He (Jesus is God) you will die in your sins.”

There is no other name under heaven by which a man can be saved- Acts 4:12

I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me. John 14:6