

FINDING THE SAVIOUR

Introduction: Bondi Beach tragedy

- Australia's shame
- Another name for Hanukkah is "Festival of Lights"

1. The Promised Light

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

- People had pondered those passages for centuries.
 - What did this mean? When would this happen?

John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

- Note: "in Him was life..." ; "Life was the light of men..."
- Jesus gives life that darkness cannot overcome
 - Darkness cannot understand light...

John 8:12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

- "Follow Me" is never in darkness.

2. Gaining Understanding

John 10:22 *Then came the Festival of Dedication (that is, Hanukkah) at Jerusalem. It was winter...*

- Feast of lights, dedication, renewal, Hannukkah



Hannukkah Background:

- In 167-160BC, Antiochus Epiphanes (*An-te-o-kus E-pif-an-ees*), who was one of the successors to Alexander the Great, tried to unify his empire by establishing a single religion.
- To make a point, he built a gymnasium next to the Jewish Temple.
 - All participants in the gym were in the nude.

- To make his final point, he took over the Jewish Temple, and sacrificed a PIG there, to the Greek god Zeus.
- This led to a revolt by the Jews, led by Judas Maccabeus (now referred to as the Maccabean War)
 - The Maccabeus' fought by guerilla warfare, and against overwhelming odds, freed the land from Greek rule and restored and rededicated the Temple.
- The Menorah was historically 7 candles. When Judas Maccabeus entered the Temple, he found only a small jar of oil that had not been defiled by Antiochus.
 - The jar contained only enough oil to burn for one day, but miraculously the oil burned for eight days until new consecrated oil could be found, establishing the precedent that the festival should last eight days.
 - This story suggests that Hanukkah is a commemoration of a divine miracle.

John 10:22 *Then came the Festival of Dedication (that is, Hanukkah) at Jerusalem. It was winter...*

- Why was Jesus there?
 - Hanukkah was not a religious event required in OT.
 - It was more like Anzac Day when we remember our soldiers.
- Jesus was confronted while at the festival and used the challenge to show Who He really was.

Hanukkah has four elements to the story:	
Trouble	Greek takeover
Hero	Judas Macabeus
Miracle	Oil did not run out
Victory	Nation saved; temple restored

John 10:25-30 *Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."*

Four elements to the story:	
Trouble	Roman takeover; corrupt religious leaders
Hero	Jesus; unlike Judas Macabeus, those who listen to Jesus receive eternal life and security Judas was a gifted fighter and leader, but Jesus says "I and the Father are One."

John 10:31-33 *Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”*

“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Miracle	Not just one miracle, but many <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not the miracles they were judging – it was His claim to be God.
Victory	Jesus’ victory through His death and resurrection is eternal, not temporary

3. Jesus, Light of the World.

1 John 1:1-5 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.*

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.***