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John 10 - Part II

I and my Father are One

Read John 10:22-38:

The Feast of Dedication or, Festival of Lights is an eight-day festival commemorating the rededication of the 2nd temple (Solomon's), after its desecration by Antiochus Epiphanes. The feast occurs in our late November to late December. The Hebrew name is Hanukkah, and occurs December 12th this year. Various feasts mentioned in the Bible give us an idea of the time of year when an event happens.

1. Verses 24-25: How had Jesus been telling the Jews over & over that he was the Christ? Verses 32, 37-38; Jn 5:36 {It was like the Jews asking the blind man over & over, not because they did not hear the first time, but because they did not believe him.}

2. Verse 29: In your mind, what do these words of Jesus mean, *My Father is greater than all?* Jn 5:18 {explained in verse 19; the word *equal* means *seemly*, Mt 20:12 or *to agree*, Mk 14:56, 59; also connect Jn 13:16 with Jn 17:18 about being sent.}

3. Verse 30-33: The Jews threatened to stone Jesus because he said, *I and my father are one*. How did they understand what Jesus meant, and were they correct? Cp Jn 17:20-21 {if the Jews were correct, then their idea would apply humans as well. When the Jews expressed their understanding, it was usually inaccurate}

Verses 34-36: (Jesus addresses their answer in a different way)

4. Where in these scriptures did Jesus say, or imply that he was a son of God? Ps 82:6 (partly quoted, also says, *and all of you are children of the most High*, which Jesus knew that they knew)

{gods in Ps 82:6 is *elohim* (el-o-heem) ^{h430}. The word means *strength, might* - cf Ex 9:28. It appears 2606 times & applied to God - Gen 1:1; gods - Gen 35:2; Ex 12:12; rulers or judges - Num 11:16-17; Ex 21:6; men - Ex 7:1 & one time, incorrectly to angels - Ps 8:5. In Heb 2:6-7 pertaining to Jesus, Ps 8:4-5 is quoted. Translators took the Greek word for *angels* ^{g32} & put it in the Hebrew translation, rather than the other way around. Jesus was not made a little lower than angels, but lower than the rulers, judges, the mighty ones of the earth.}

Read John 10:39-42:

5. Where did John first baptize, & what is the spiritual significance? Mt 3:1-3

{wilderness: Jer 2:2, 31; 17:6; Eze 19:13 - a land not sown, of darkness, a salt land, not inhabited, a dry, thirsty land. When a person first comes to Jesus, or one who is sincerely seeking truth discovers that they have been believing a lie, they begin to move away from that way of thinking toward a new way of thinking. One way this journey is depicted metaphorically in the Bible is as being led out of Egypt into the wilderness. Essentially, it is an honest heart who hears the truth and can admit that they do not understand (i.e. spiritually speaking, they recognize that they are really in darkness, or the wilderness, though they might not say it that way.)}