

## **John 10b verses 22-42**

22 The Feast of Dedication is called Hanukkah, or the Feast of Lights today. It falls on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Chislew which is close to our month of December. Antiochus Epiphanes, ruler of Syria, had taken over the Temple in 170 BC. He robbed the temple treasury and made it illegal to circumcise a child or possess a copy of the Law. 80,000 Jews were killed, and about that many were sold into slavery. The Temple was converted to a Temple to Zeus in which prostitution took place. The altar was used to offer swine's flesh to Zeus. Judas Maccabaeus led a revolt that successfully took back the Temple in 164 BC. The cleansing and rededication of the altar became the Feast of Dedication. He declared that all Jews would observe an eight-day feast in remembrance of the light of freedom.

When the Temple was taken, the great golden candlestick was relit. A single bottle of oil was found that was sealed with the High Priest's seal, verifying it was made according to the Law. That bottle was supposed to be a one-day supply. It lasted all 8 days of the celebration until more was prepared. It was during this feast that Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." Jews celebrate that Feast today by lighting eight candles in their windows during the eight days.

23 The outer court of the Temple, the court of the Gentiles, had two magnificent covered colonnades on each side. One side was called the Royal Colonnade and the other Solomon's Colonnade. Rabbi would walk along the colonnade as they instructed their disciples. John describes the conditions as wintry weather.

24-25 Some of those asking probably wanted to know in sincerity. Other wanted to accuse Him of blasphemy or insurrection. Jesus told the Samaritan woman in 4:26 and the blind man in 9:37, but the closest He'd come to telling the public was 8:58. He told them by the authoritative way He interpreted Scripture. He told them through the miracles He performed. Isaiah 35:5,6; John 7:31

26-27 Jesus returns to the analogy of the shepherd and the sheep. There is a note of predestination in this expression. If you're a sheep you know His voice. If you aren't you don't know His voice. The ones that know His voice follow. It is similar to the parable of fruit. If you remain in Him you will bear good fruit. If you are a sheep you will follow. These are indicators of whether or not we are yielded to Him. He was telling the religious leaders, "Sorry, you aren't part of the flock."

28 But here is the promise to the flock, security. He does not say you will never suffer or go through trials, but you will know your soul is kept safe. The lion can try to steal you away, but the Shepherd has a big rod. It can't happen.  
2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; Jude 1:24

29 It is because God is Almighty. That is why Jesus committed His spirit to God when He died. Luke 23:46; Psalm 145:3 Many early manuscripts say, "What my Father has given me is greater than all..." See 14:28

30-31 They asked for a clear statement. They got it! This shows that they were baiting Him, looking for a declaration so that they could justifiably (in their minds) silence Him. Those who say Jesus never said He was God just aren't honest with what the Gospel account. Though He says the Father is greater, He claims they are One. He was in a limited state during the incarnation, before the resurrection. See Philippians 2. 17:11,20-22

"Jesus' unity with God came from the twin facts of perfect love and perfect obedience. He was one with God because he loved and obeyed him perfectly; and he came to this world to make us what he is." —Barclay's Daily Study Bible

32-35 This is an interesting argument from a rabbinical mind set. They are prepared to stone Jesus because He says He is one with God. In the Scriptures, men who had a special task to stand in God's place were called gods, *Elohiym*. (Psalm 82:6; Exodus 22:28) If Scripture can speak like that about men, then why can't Jesus speak that way about Himself?

36-39 Here is the test of tests. We may misunderstand a person's words or misinterpret motive or intention. Instead of basing judgment merely on words, base it on actions. Actions are definitive of the heart. You can't fake them for long. How few can ask to be judged by their actions!

40-42 In the Galilee region Herod was after Him. In Judea, the religious leaders were after Him. There was one place left to go, where His call originated, the region of Philip the Tetrarch. It was the last few months of His ministry. His popularity had made Him an enemy of many powerful people, but His time had not quite come yet. There, on the other side of the Jordan, people remembered John's message of the One to come. Jesus was that One, and the signs verified it to be so. They realized John's message had come to pass. John pointed to the need of repentance and forgiveness; Jesus brought the power to forgive and transform the heart. Matthew 3:11-12