



# Bi60

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## I AM THE LIGHT

*The Bible's Theme of Light and Darkness*

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“I am the light of the world.  
He who follows Me will not walk in darkness  
But will have the light of life.” – *John 8:12*

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*John 8:12*

### What Is Bi60?

Have you ever heard of reading the Bible in a year? How about reading the Bible in an hour? Welcome to Bi60 – the Bible in 60 minutes – a simple compilation of select passages to present the big picture of the Bible in a small amount of time.

The idea of Bi60 came to me one Wednesday night at church in the fall of 2020. A team of staff members and volunteers had pieced together a set of prayers that they read from the stage. Members of the congregation prayed with them as they read. The service lasted for about an hour and the whole experience was wonderful.

As I drove home that evening, I wondered about doing something similar to the prayer service but reading Scripture for an hour. How wonderful it would be to hear God's Word in such a unique way. Thus, Bi60 was born! I soon created various themes and started the process of selecting passages of Scripture. Individuals, small groups, and, yes, even congregations can read these select Bible verses and hear God's Word in an unfamiliar way.

My intention was not to manipulate Scripture but to piece together complementary passages in a way that our sectioned Bibles cannot accomplish. In the meantime, readers will experience God's Word, His wisdom, instructions, and encouragements in a way they never have before.

### The Translation

For Bi60, I used the *New Living Translation* for several reasons. First, the *NLT* is an unfamiliar translation to

most Christians, not that people are unaware of the *NLT* but that they do not read it regularly. The more popular translations include the *KJV*, *NKJV*, *NIV*, *ESV*, and *NASB*. Since the *NLT* is unfamiliar to most of us, it is a refreshing reading experience.

Second, I chose the *NLT* for its readability. While the other translations are excellent in their respective ways, they do require readers to possess a higher comprehension level, from 9<sup>th</sup> grade (*NIV*) to 12<sup>th</sup> grade (*KJV*). But the *NLT* requires a seventh-grade comprehension level, so it is very easy to understand and allows for smooth, story-like reading.

Third, I chose the *NLT* because it coincides with the *One Year Chronological Bible (NLT)* from Tyndale Publishing, the Bible for which I produced my *Study Guide* and *Daily Reflections* (visit [BiAY.org](http://BiAY.org) for more details). The Bi60 selections are a mixture of the *New Living Translation* and the *One Year Chronological Bible*. Where the two versions are not identical, I chose the version that made the most sense to me or was the easiest to read. If I added words for clarification or transition purposes, I wrote them in brackets [ ].

### How to Read Bi60

While every word in Bi60 is from the Bible (except for my bracketed clarifications and transitions), I took the references out and added them as footnotes for a smoother reading experience.

The Bi60 may take more or less than one hour, depending on each participant's reading pace. Each Bi60 booklet has roughly 12,000 words which, when read at an average speed, will take about sixty minutes.

The primary purpose of Bi60 is not the amount of time it takes to read the passages but to enjoy God's Word in a new and refreshing way. I trust that He will bless your time in the Bi60.

Aaron

# Bi60

## I AM THE LIGHT

*The Bible's Theme of Light and Darkness*

### God the Father Is Light

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you, “God is *light*, and there is no *darkness* in Him at all.”<sup>1</sup>

O LORD our God, how great you are! You are robed with honor and majesty. You are dressed in a robe of *light*.<sup>2</sup>

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and *darkness* covered the deep waters; and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be *light*,” and there was *light*. God saw that the *light* was good. Then he separated the *light* from the *darkness*.<sup>3</sup>

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the *lights* in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting *shadow*.<sup>4</sup>

“Praise the name of God forever and ever, for He has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in *darkness*, though He is surrounded by *light*.<sup>5</sup>

God’s unfailing love is as vast as the heavens; His faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. His righteousness is like the mighty mountains, His justice like the ocean depths. For He is the fountain of life, the *light* by which we see.<sup>6</sup>

For the LORD God is our *sun* and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.<sup>7</sup>

### Prophecies of the Light

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.<sup>8</sup>

[Isaiah said], “That time of *darkness* and despair will not go on forever. There will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles will be filled with glory. The people who walk in *darkness* will see a great *light*. For those who live in a land of deep *darkness*, a *light* will shine. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor’s rod...

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders, and he will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.”<sup>9</sup>

[Isaiah also wrote], “Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations. I, the LORD, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a *light* to guide the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in *dark* dungeons.”<sup>10</sup>

[Malachi wrote], “For you who fear my name, the *Sun* of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings, and you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 1:5

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 104:2

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 1:1-3

<sup>4</sup> James 1:17

<sup>5</sup> Daniel 2:20-22

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 36:5-9

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<sup>7</sup> Psalms 84:11

<sup>8</sup> Hebrews 1:1

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah 9:1-6

<sup>10</sup> Isaiah 42:1-6

<sup>11</sup> Malachi 4:2

## Jesus Is the Light

Now in these final days, God has spoken to us through his Son.<sup>12</sup>

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That *night* there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the *radiance* of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! You will recognize him by this sign -- you will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. There was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.<sup>13</sup>

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his *star* as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'You, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"

The wise men went their way, and the *star* they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the *star*, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.<sup>14</sup>

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there.

He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a *light* to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!" Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.<sup>15</sup>

[John, one of Jesus' disciples, described Jesus as the Word, saying], "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought *light* to everyone. The *light* shines in the *darkness*, and the *darkness* can never extinguish it."

[John continued], "God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the *light* so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the

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<sup>12</sup> *Hebrews 1:1*

<sup>13</sup> *Luke 2:6-19*

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<sup>14</sup> *Matthew 2:1-12*

<sup>15</sup> *Luke 2:25-33*

*light*; he was simply a witness to tell about the *light*. The one who is the true *light*, who gives *light* to everyone, was coming into the world.

“He came into the very world He created, but the world didn’t recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn, not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

“So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness; and we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”

John testified about Him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for He existed long before me.’”

“From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is Himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.”<sup>16</sup>

When Jesus spoke to the people, He said, “I am the *light* of the world. If you follow Me, you won’t have to walk in *darkness*, because you will have the *light* that leads to life.”<sup>17</sup> God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance. The Son *radiates* God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God.<sup>18</sup>

Jesus continued, “If you trust Me, you are trusting not only Me, but also God who sent Me. For when you see Me, you are seeing the one who sent Me. I have come as a *light* to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in Me will no longer remain in the *dark*. I will not judge those who hear Me but don’t obey Me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. But all who reject Me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. I don’t speak on My own authority. The Father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to say it. I know his commands lead to

eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells Me to say.”<sup>19</sup>

Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed so that His face shone like the *sun*, and his clothes became as white as *light*.<sup>20</sup>

Jesus told them a parable. “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!

“So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. Everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them.

“The king was furious! He said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honor. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’ So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply. Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer *darkness*, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’<sup>21</sup>

The judgment is based on this fact -- God’s *light* came into the world, but people loved the *darkness* more than the *light*, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the *light* and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.”<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> John 1:1-18

<sup>17</sup> John 8:12

<sup>18</sup> Hebrews 1:1-4

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<sup>19</sup> John 12:44-50

<sup>20</sup> Matthew 17:1, 2

<sup>21</sup> Matthew 22:1-13

<sup>22</sup> John 3:19-21

## From Darkness to Light

Though we sit in *darkness*, the LORD will be our *light*. We will be patient as the LORD punishes us, for we have sinned against him. The LORD will bring us into the *light*, and we will see his righteousness.<sup>23</sup>

For this is how God loved the world -- He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.<sup>24</sup>

May we be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled us to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the *light*. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of *darkness* and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.<sup>25</sup>

The LORD is our *light* and our salvation, so why should we be afraid? The LORD is our fortress, protecting us from danger, so why should we tremble?<sup>26</sup>

## Walking in the Light

For we are a chosen people. We are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, we can show others the goodness of God, for he called us out of the *darkness* into his wonderful *light*.<sup>27</sup>

[As Jesus said], we are [now] the *light* of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a *lamp* and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a *lamp* is placed on a stand, where it gives *light* to everyone in the house. In the same way, [we will] let our good deeds *shine* out for all to see, so that everyone will praise our heavenly Father.<sup>28</sup>

[Likewise], the teaching of His Word gives *light*, so even the simple can understand.<sup>29</sup> He lights a *lamp* for us. The Lord, our God, *lights* up our *darkness*.<sup>30</sup> His word is a lamp to guide our feet and a *light* for our path.<sup>31</sup>

The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of *dawn*, which *shines* ever brighter until the full *light* of day. But the way of the wicked is like total *darkness*. They have no idea what they are stumbling over.<sup>32</sup>

[We] don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can *light* live with *darkness*? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."<sup>33</sup>

Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse [their] sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of *darkness*, but now you have *light* from the Lord. So live as people of *light*! For this *light* within you produces only what is good and right and true.

Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and *darkness*; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the *light* shines on them, for the *light* makes everything visible.

This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper! Rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you *light*."

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.<sup>34</sup>

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright *lights* in a world full of crooked and perverse people.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Micah 7:8, 9

<sup>24</sup> John 3:16, 17

<sup>25</sup> Colossians 1:12, 13

<sup>26</sup> Psalm 27:1

<sup>27</sup> 1 Peter 2:9

<sup>28</sup> Matthew 5:1, 14-16

<sup>29</sup> Psalm 119:130

<sup>30</sup> Psalm 18:28

<sup>31</sup> Psalm 119:105

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<sup>32</sup> Proverbs 4:18, 19

<sup>33</sup> 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

<sup>34</sup> Ephesians 5:6-16

<sup>35</sup> Philippians 2:14, 15

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is *light*, and there is no *darkness* in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual *darkness*; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the *light*, as God is in the *light*, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.<sup>36</sup>

Dear friends, [this is ] not a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the *darkness* is disappearing, and the true *light* is already shining.

If anyone claims, “I am living in the *light*,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in *darkness*. Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the *light* and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in *darkness*. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the *darkness*.<sup>37</sup>

We now have this *light* shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let there be *light* in the *darkness*,” has made this *light* shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the

minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.<sup>38</sup>

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this *dark* world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.<sup>39</sup>

For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the *night*. When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. There will be no escape.

But you aren’t in the *dark* about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the *light* and of the *day*; we don’t belong to *darkness* and *night*. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. *Night* is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the *light* be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.<sup>40</sup>

Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The *night* is almost gone; the *day* of

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<sup>36</sup> 1 John 1:5-10

<sup>37</sup> 1 John 2:7-11

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<sup>38</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<sup>39</sup> Ephesians 6:10-18

<sup>40</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8

salvation will soon be here. So remove your *dark* deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the *day*, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the *darkness* of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.<sup>41</sup>

We have great confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. We pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a *lamp* shining in a *dark* place — until the *Day* dawns, and Christ the Morning *Star* shines in our hearts.<sup>42</sup>

### Living in the Light

At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He alone can never die, and He lives in *light* so brilliant that no human can approach Him.<sup>43</sup>

When John, our brother and partner in God's Kingdom was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for his testimony about Jesus, [he was given a revelation]. It was the Lord's Day, and he was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, he heard behind him a loud voice like a trumpet blast. It said, "Write in a book everything you see..."

When he turned to see who was speaking to him, he saw seven gold *lampstands*. Standing in the middle of the *lampstands* was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like flames of *fire*. His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. His face was like the *sun* in all its brilliance.

When John saw him, he fell at his feet as if he were dead. But the Son of Man laid his right hand on him and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive

forever and ever! I hold the keys of death and the grave."<sup>44</sup>

Then John saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. The sea was also gone; and he saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem.

Then, John heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

The one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" Then He said to John, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

Then one of the angels came and said to John, "Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." So he took John in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed him the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. It *shone* with the glory of God and *sparkled* like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal.

The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones... The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

John saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of *sun* or *moon*, for the *glory* of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its *light*. The

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<sup>41</sup> Romans 13:11-14

<sup>42</sup> 2 Peter 1:19

<sup>43</sup> 1 Timothy 6:15, 16

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<sup>44</sup> Revelation 1:8-18



nations will walk in its *light*, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory.

The gates of the city will never be closed at the end of day because there is no *night* there. And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.<sup>45</sup>

“Arise, Jerusalem! Let your *light* shine for all to see. For the glory of the LORD rises to *shine* on you. *Darkness* as black as *night* covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. All nations will come to your *light*; mighty kings will come to see your *radiance*.<sup>46</sup>

“No longer will you need the *sun* to shine by day, nor the *moon* to give its light by night, for the LORD your God will be your everlasting *light*, and your God will be your glory. Your *sun* will never set; your *moon* will not go down. For the LORD will be your everlasting *light*. Your days of mourning will come to an end.<sup>47</sup>

Then the angel showed John a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing fruit.

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and His name will be written on their foreheads. There will be no *night* there—no need for *lamps* or *sun*—for the Lord God will *shine* on them. And they will reign forever and ever.<sup>48</sup>

The Lord says, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end. I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One. I am the bright morning *star*...<sup>49</sup>

Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning *light* from heaven is about to break upon us, to give *light* to

those who sit in *darkness* and in the *shadow* of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.<sup>50</sup>

[Remember what] Jesus said, “My *light* will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the *light* while you can, so the *darkness* will not overtake you. Those who walk in the *darkness* cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the *light* while there is still time; then you will become children of the *light*.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Revelation 21

<sup>46</sup> Isaiah 60:1-3

<sup>47</sup> Isaiah 60:20

<sup>48</sup> Revelation 22:1-5

<sup>49</sup> Revelation 22:16

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<sup>50</sup> Luke 1:78, 79

<sup>51</sup> John 12:35, 36

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