



THE LIGHT

December 2, 2025 | *Isaiah 9:2; John 1:1-5; 8:12*

Light and Darkness

Yesterday, we read part of John's beautiful prologue regarding the Word, who is Jesus. However, we stopped short of reading the next two verses that say, "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (*Jn. 1:4-5*).

In Hebrew, the word *comprehend* can also mean to overpower or to overtake, meaning darkness does not overpower light, but rather light overpowers darkness.

Just as John connects Jesus to the Word(s) of God at creation, so he also connects Jesus to the light at creation. Remember, in the beginning, "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness" (*Gen. 1:4-5*).

The big story of the Bible is that God redeemed the fallen world, and that metanarrative (big story) is illustrated in a battle between light and darkness. The battle begins on the first page of the Bible and carries to the end, in the book of *Revelation*. However, there are two realms of light — natural (or physical) light and supernatural (or spiritual) light.

Notice that the Bible begins with darkness on the earth (*Gen. 1:2*) but immediately introduces light (v.3), which overcomes the darkness. But the sun, moon, and stars were not created until Day 4. So then, what was providing the light in the beginning? Whatever it was, the Lord provided it.

John wrote, "God is light, and in Him there is no darkness..." (*1 Jn. 1:5*). James referred to God as "the Father of lights" (*Jas. 1:17*). Paul said, "The King of Kings dwells in inapproachable light..." (*1 Tim. 6:15-16*).

At the end of the Bible, “The city (or heaven) has no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb” (*Rev. 21:23*).

God is light — supernatural, spiritual light — and His radiance is powerful enough to illumine the universe, yet we on earth cannot see it.

But what does light have to do with Christmas?

The Light of the World

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life” (*Jn. 8:12*). What did He mean by that?

First, the world is spiritually dark, hopeless, and lost. Jesus is the Light of the world, the way out of spiritual darkness. Even His name, *Yeshua* or Jesus, means “God saves.” In a world of darkness, Jesus is the light.

Second, by saying, “I am the Light of the world,” Jesus was identifying Himself as the Messiah, the Chosen One who was to come and save the Jews and the world from sin (*Jn. 8:13-14, 23*). He linked Himself to Old Testament prophecies.

For example, *Isaiah 9:2* says, “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.” Notice the theme again — light and darkness. But wait, is this physical light or spiritual light? It’s spiritual.

How do we know that Isaiah was referring to Jesus? A few verses later, he wrote, “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us...” (*Isa. 9:6*). Jesus is that Child, and it was prophesied that He would be a great light to a dark world.

Also, in *Isaiah 42*, the chapter about the Suffering Servant (who is Jesus), it is written, “I am the Lord. I have called You in righteousness... I will appoint You as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners who dwell in darkness from the prison” (v.6, 7). Jesus is the Light about which Isaiah prophesied.

Is there any wonder, then, why the news of Jesus’ birth was proclaimed to shepherds in the middle of the night?

Luke 2:8 says, “In the same region (where Jesus was born), there were shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flocks by night.”

Should we be surprised that, in *Matthew 2:2*, the magi or wise men were led to where Jesus was by the light of a star? Not at all. It was prophesied — people in darkness will see a great light!

But wait, there’s more!

The Light of Life

In John's prologue, he says of Jesus, "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men" (*Jn. 1:4*). Not only was Jesus the Light of the world, but He was (and is) the life of the world (*Jn. 10:10*).

Remember, Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life" (*Jn. 8:12*).

Notice that there are two parts of this verse. First, Jesus is the light of the world. We got that. Second, "those who follow Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What did He mean by that?

The Bible says that God created us "in His image" (*Gen. 1:26*). Since God is spirit (*Jn. 4:24*), we too were made with a spiritual element. Though we live in the physical realm, we are connected to the spiritual realm; and we will live in the spiritual realm when our life in the physical realm is finished.

However, because of our inherent sinful nature, we are born into spiritual darkness (*Eph. 5:8*). Remember *Isaiah 9:2*? "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light..." That darkness is spiritual, not physical.

People who die in their sin never escape that darkness, for even in the afterlife, they will be "cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (*Matt. 22:13; 25:30*).

However, even though we are born into spiritual darkness, God did not leave us there. Those who walk in darkness will see a great light! Jesus is the light of the world, and He came to set people free from spiritual darkness!

Paul wrote in *Colossians 1:13*, "For He (God the Father) rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...", which is the domain of light.

Remember what John wrote? "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overpower it" (*Jn. 1:5*). Though the darkness is strong, the Light is stronger, and only Jesus can provide a way of escape from our spiritual darkness!

What Child is this in the manger? He was (and is) the Light of life! Thank God, He didn't leave us in the dark!

Ponder and Pray

Are you in the light or the darkness? How do you know?

Ask the Lord to make you a bright light in a dark world.

The reading plan and devotions were developed by Aaron Ferguson, one of our Elders and author of the *Study Guide and Daily Reflections for the One Year Chronological Reading of the Bible and the New Testament*. For more details, visit his website at BiAY.org.



Henderson Hills Baptist Church | 1200 E I-35 Frontage Rd | Edmond, OK 73034 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)