

Jesus Is The Light Of The World

Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

God said, "Let there be light and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). The first thing God created on the earth was light. Not because He needed light to see but because the heavens and the earth were still dark and void. He would make His future human creation to need light to live. The words God spoke, caused the light to appear from His very countenance and expel the darkness. 'Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us' (Psalm 4:6).

Scientists who study light, know light is an entity, a physical constant, a substance that travels in waves. Light is an essential characteristic of the Lord's very nature. There is light inside of Himself and He beams it out to all creation. Light existed before God created atoms, before He made chemical elements and before He established the law of gravity. Only God knows where both light and darkness dwell, because He created them both and the following verses show light to be a substance that 'dwells' somewhere. 'Where is the way to the dwelling of light? Darkness, where is its place that You may take it to its territory and so You may discern the paths to its home?' (Job 38:19 & 20)

On the third day God created all the vegetation. God's shining Light was enough to sustain the vegetation He had created. On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon and the stars. The Bible distinguishes between the primary Light of God and the secondary, created lights of the heavens. Two different Hebrew words are used for these two lights. For the Light of God, the Hebrew word is pronounced 'Orr'. For the light of the sun, the Hebrew word is pronounced 'Ma'orr'. 'Ma'orr' is also used when describing the light that shines from a lamp. The Lord clearly distinguishes between the two lights. 'With You is the fountain of life. In Your Light do we see light' (Psalm 36:9). "I create both light and darkness ... I, the Lord do all these things" (Isaiah 45:7). The scriptures say God's commandments are a lamp and the teachings within the Bible are His primary Light, His 'Orr'. 'For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is Light' (Proverbs 6:23).

The primary 'Orr' Light, is associated with the first coming of Jesus Who ushered in the Kingdom of Light. God's Light is our Messiah Himself and a plan of redemption for His people was part of God's plan from before creation. Isaiah told us the sun, moon and stars will one day not be needed because the Lord Jesus Himself will shine His Light on us as an everlasting Light. God's redeeming Light is eternal. See what both the Old and New Testaments have to say. 'Arise, shine, for your Light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Nations will come to Your Light. The sun will no more be your light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give light to you, but the Lord will be to you an everlasting Light and your God will be your glory and your beauty. Your sun will no more go down, nor will your moon withdraw itself, for the Lord will be your everlasting Light' (Isaiah 60:1, 3, 19 & 20). 'The city (the New Jerusalem) has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the glory of the Lord illuminates it and the Lamb is its Light. The nations will walk by His Light' (Revelation 21:23 & 24). 'There will be no more night. They have no need for lamplight or sunlight for the Lord God will illuminate them and be their Light' (Revelation 22:5).

People who do not walk according to God's commands are said to be rebelling against the Light, that is the Light of God not the light of the sun. 'They are of those who rebel against the Light. They do not know His ways nor stay in His paths' (Job 24:13). 'The eye is the lamp of the body so if your eye is sound your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is unsound your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light in you, your conscience is darkened how great is that darkness' (Matthew 6:22 & 23). 'Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is sound your whole body is full of light but when it is not sound your body is full of darkness' (Luke 11:34). If we look into the eyes of a young child, all we see is purity, trust, love and joy. The child's eye is sound. Their conscience is clear so their light shines. Their eyes are a window to their very being – their soul. A clear conscience shines through our eyes. We are to be the salt, God's Light to the earth.

If we now look into the eyes of an unsaved person who has a hardened, peppered life, we can see they do not like to look you in the eye. They often speak to you while looking at your collar or the ground. They lie about anything and everything just for the sake of lying. They do not trust anybody. They have a sinister, dark 'air' about them. They have an unsound, guilty conscience because they have never been forgiven. Great is their darkness and we can see it in their eyes. They do not have the Light shining in their hearts. God's love fills our lives by the wondrous Light of Jesus and we rejoice in it. The darkness in our world enables the Light of God to shine brighter. When the lights have gone out in the lives of unsaved people, individuals and nations will know God of the Bible and of Israel is the Lord and the only true God.

The Bible likens this world to a very dark place in need of the Light of God. Every Gentile was once walking in darkness and ignorance but after we are saved, we live and walk in the Light of Jesus. 'You were once in darkness but are now in the Light in the Lord. Walk as children of light' (Ephesians 5:8). When God created the world He made very sure everything was very good (Genesis 1:31), it was perfect but sin and rebellion against God and His spoken Word entered the world bringing with it, spiritual darkness. This spiritual darkness is the result of mankind's separation from God's holiness. From the time Adam sinned, history is a running commentary of mankind's rebellion against God and the hatred for one another. That is why it is so important for people who walk in the Light to love one another. Loving the Jewish people and fellow Christians is the absolute opposite of what Adam brought to humanity. Adam brought rebellion and hatred. Jesus brought reconciliation and love and anyone who walks in the Light of Jesus must exhibit God's love to other people, to Jewish people and to all other believers. Loving others shows to the dark world, we are God's disciples in the Light. When the Scriptures say 'brothers' it is referring to Jews and Christians, men and women. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, you must love one another just as I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34 & 35). "I write a new commandment to you, which is true in Jesus and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true Light already shines. Anyone who says they are in the Light and yet hates their brother is in the darkness even until now. Anyone who loves their brother remains in the Light and there is no occasion for stumbling in them. Anyone who hates their brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness. They do not know where they are going because the darkness has blinded their eyes ... Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God' (1 John 2:8 to 11; 4:7).

The saga of sinners has raged unabated since Adam and the daily news broadcasts telling us about violence, wars, hatred, attacks on Jewish people and Christians is the latest description and the direct result of sin. God has not abandoned the world to darkness. Sin and evil is overcome by the redemptive Light of Jesus. 'The true Light that enlightens everyone has come into the world' (John 1:9). 'Brothers, (sisters, fellow disciples), you are not in darkness ... You are all children of Light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night nor to the darkness' (1 Thessalonians 5:4 & 5). When we walk with the Light of the world, we will never again experience darkness. In this dark world, our Judeo-Christian community is under increasing threat. Let us all live as God intended as we support our Jewish friends in Israel and in other countries and love one another as we have been commanded.

'Your Word O Lord is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Psalm 119:105).

Amen and God bless you.

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