

Let There Be Light – Genesis 1:3-5

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, has more to say about light and the absence of it than you may have thought!

About 6,000 years ago the earth had become a desolate planet, cloaked in a shroud of thick, murky darkness.

The waters completely covering its surface rolled and tossed in the endless night, whipped by unobstructed winds.

How long the earth had been like this we do not know.

Genesis 1:1 [NIV] *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

We need to understand that there is an unknown period of time between v1 and v2 of Genesis, the first chapter.

Genesis 1:2 [NIV] *“Now the earth became formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep [waters], and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”*

I have substituted the word “was” by “became” as the Hebrew indicates this and Psalm 104:30 confirms that there was a renewing of the surface of the earth.

Then something momentous took place.

Genesis 1:3-5 [NIV] *“And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day”, and the darkness he called “night”. And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.”*

Above the churning black waters the Holy Spirit waited ready to act. Everything was finally ready.

The time had come to start God’s Plan for humanity.

Over the billow and surge of un-illuminated waves a mighty voice ordered *“let there be light!”*

Immediately the blackness yielded as the awesome forces of the elements reacted in obedience to the all-powerful Creator God.

With this command the plan of the Creator God for humanity was set in motion.

This was a command to bring light, illumination, to a dark planet.

Yes, but at the same time, these words that launched God’s plan, reflected its outcome in a thrilling and inspiring way.

What we are going to see in this article, there are few aspects of the physical, material realm that illustrate spiritual truths as profoundly as the relationship between light and darkness.

Hundreds of scriptures draw this analogy. In this article we will cite only a few of them.

We suggest that you spend what will be very rewarding time looking up verses listed in a Concordance to the Christian Bible under the headings ‘light’, ‘dark’, ‘day’, ‘night’, ‘blindness’ and other related words.

The light of the world –

When God first created the earth, perhaps millions of years ago, angelic beings described as “*morning stars*” sang for joy when they saw this wonderful creation.

Job 38:4-11 [NIV] “*Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone, while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?’*”

The Creator God is challenging Job by describing this first creation of a perfect earth full of light.

Many of these angelic beings were given this earth as a place of habitation.

They were ruled by the great archangel Lucifer, whose name meant “*light bringer*” or “*shining star of the dawn.*”

With all those brilliant “*stars*”, angels of light, inhabiting the earth, it must have been a bright place indeed.

Then tragedy occurred.

Lucifer, **not** satisfied with only the earth to rule over, led a rebellion against the Almighty God in heaven.

The rebellion was **not** successful.

Lucifer and the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven. [Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19]

No longer was Lucifer called the light bringer, he was now called the devil and Satan, and his kingdom became a kingdom of spiritual darkness and confusion. [Ephesians 6:12]

It was therefore fitting that the physical earth, Satan’s domain, was now in darkness and confusion, rendered that way by the titanic battle Lucifer and his legions waged against the Eternal God and His hosts of righteous angels who hadn’t followed Lucifer’s example.

So the earth came to be in desolate darkness until God intervened some 6,000 years ago to bring light and order.

It should be noted however, that God did not totally abolish darkness at that time.

God introduced light into the world, by dividing the light from the darkness.

God then declared that the light was good [Genesis 1:4], but the darkness was **not** called good although He allowed it to persist.

There is something that we can learn from this division of light and darkness.

As night coexists with day on our physical planet, so in the spiritual realm Satan and his rulers of darkness now coexist on earth with spiritual light.

Do you know what that spiritual light on earth is?

Matthew 5:14 [NIV] *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

Jesus said that all true Christians make up this spiritual light on the earth.

Each group of Christians in a church are symbolic of a lampstand. [**Revelation 1:20**]

Each true Christian is an individual child of light. [**Ephesians 5:8**]

How do we become this child of light?

Romans 12:11 [RSV] *“Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.”*

Philippians 2:14-15 [RSV] *“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”*

John 3:19-21 [NIV] *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”*

Satan sees us clearly as a light in his darkened world and will do all he can to put out our light.

Don't allow Satan to put out your light.

Be determined that as far as we are concerned there will be light on this earth while we live.

The final punishment determined by God for Satan and his demons is eternal darkness.

2 Peter 2:4 [Revised Authorised Version] *“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [Greek “tartarōs” meaning a place of restraint, only applied to rebellious angels] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgement.”*

Even now Satan and his demons are limited by “chains of darkness” awaiting their final judgement.

Jude 13 [NIV] *“They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved for ever.”*

This is the final punishment of Satan and his demons.

What a fall for spirit beings who were once brilliant morning stars!

You may have heard of black holes that are to be found in each galaxy.

These black holes were once gigantic stars that shrivelled up and folded in upon themselves.

Now instead of giving out light, these black holes seek to draw everything to themselves.

Their gravity having become so intense that not even light can escape.

Who knows? Maybe the likeness of black holes to the fate of Satan and his demons is more than coincidental.

Is your lamp lit?

John 11:9-10 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light.”*

When Jesus gave this statement He was living in a society without artificial light to light up the dark night.

Light is not inherent in a human being, it must come from an outward source, without it we are in darkness.

The darkness engulfing humanity cut off from God, the source of light, is two-fold.

John 8:12 [NIV] *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Jesus Christ is the spiritual light Who has come into this world. [**John 3:19**]

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Satan, who is the present god of this spiritual darkened world has blinded the vast majority of people to the light of the Gospel Message that Jesus Christ brought to humanity.

Without this spiritual illumination people will stumble into sinful ways or be blinded as to what is good and what is evil.

Ephesians 1:18 [NIV] *“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,”*

The spiritual eyes of those whom God is calling at this time are being opened to the light that the Gospel Message brings.

1 John 1:5-7 [NIV] *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

If we are to remain freed from the penalty of sin, death, we must continue to walk with Jesus Christ in the light.

How do we do this?

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

The Holy Spirit will guide us to where Jesus Christ, who is the truth [John 14:6] is walking, if we keep in step with the Holy Spirit. [Galatians 5:25]

If we are to walk with Jesus Christ into the Kingdom of God, our inheritance [**Romans 8:16-17**] we need to be constantly empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The parable of the foolish virgins reminds us that we must always be well supplied with the “oil” of the Holy Spirit for our lights to remain lit. [**Matthew 25:1-13**]

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

When we relate this scripture with the parable of the foolish virgins who lacked the Holy Spirit, we see that what is flowing from us is the love that is generated by the Holy Spirit in the form of loving deeds towards other human beings, this is how our light shines. [Also read **John 13:34-35**]

Proverbs 4:18 [NIV] *“The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.”*

When we become Christians we do **not** shine in full brightness all at once.

As a Christian we need to constantly be under self-examination asking am I making progress in being a shining light that reflects God’s way of life, the way of love towards other human beings as well as loving our Creator God and Heavenly Father.

A striking contrast –

Light, as long as it continues to shine, always overcomes darkness. [Ecclesiastes 2:13]

When you turn on a light in a dark room, the darkness vanishes.

But you **cannot** “turn on” darkness in a room filled with light. The only way that darkness can return is if the source of light is extinguished or covered up. **[Luke 11:33-36]**

Light symbolises what is positive.

Darkness symbolises what is negative because it is the absence of positive light.

John 8:12 [NIV] *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Light symbolises life, both physical and eternal spiritual life.

Psalms 43:3 [NIV] *“Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.”*

Light and truth are synonyms.

Psalms 143:3 [NIV] *“The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead.”*

Darkness symbolises death.

Acts 26:18 [NIV] *“to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”*

God used Paul to bring light to the eyes of the Gentiles to bring them out of darkness, being held in the power of Satan, to God so that they could receive salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:14 [NIV] *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”*

Light and darkness are opposites, they cannot exist together.

Ephesians 5:8-10 [NIV] *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.”*

Before God calls us and brings us to repentance and converts our way of thinking and living **[Romans 12:2]** we were in darkness. But after conversion we can walk and live as children of light.

How?

Ephesians 5:11 [NIV] *“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”*

Have nothing to do with our former life when we walked in darkness.

Rather allow the fruits of the Holy Spirit living in us, love, goodness, righteousness and truth, expose the deeds of darkness for what they are, Satan-inspired evil.

The day of the Lord –

Prophecy as recorded in the Christian Bible shows that there will be a day in which the Creator God will intervene in world affairs and judge the nations.

This day will dawn on the return of Jesus Christ, this time as Ruler and Judge.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-10 [NIV] *“for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety”, destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”*

This is the “day” that comes after the “night” of Satan-inspired human misrule.

Romans 13:11-14 [NIV] *“And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”*

For every human being this day of the return of Jesus Christ is nearer than when we first accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Colossians 1:10-13 [NIV] *“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the **kingdom of light**. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,”*

Our inheritance with Jesus Christ is called the “kingdom of light.”

James 1:16-18 [NIV] *“Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of the heavenly lights**, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”*

“Father of heavenly lights,” is this referring to Christians who are children of a Heavenly Father who is the source of all light?

1 John 1:5 [NIV] *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”*

God is the source of all light, and lives in unapproachable light. [1 Timothy 6:16]

Jesus Christ is the radiance of the glorious God of light. [Hebrews 1:3]

Jesus Christ now shines as the sun in its full strength. [Revelation 22:16]

Christians at the return of Jesus Christ will also be glorified [1 John 3:2].

That is part of our inheritance [Colossians 1:12].

In this present age, evil and righteousness coexist like night and day, but in the world tomorrow, in the Kingdom of Light, there will be no night.

Revelation 21:23-25 [NIV] *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.”*

Referring to the New Jerusalem, the central headquarters of Jesus Christ. [v9-10]

Revelation 22:5-7 [NIV] *“There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”*

A promise from Jesus Christ who will bring into being this new world of light.

Let this be your destiny.

Let there be light!