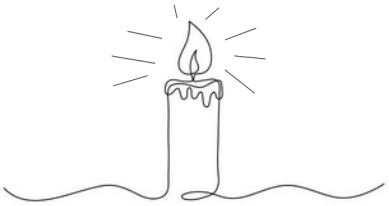
THE LIGHT



Advent is a season that many Christians around the world observe as a time of expectant waiting and preparation. Amidst the busyness of life and the run-up to Christmas, we remember Christ's incarnation, His 1st coming, when we look back to His birth as a baby. But, we also look forward to His return, the 2nd coming of Christ, when He will fulfill yet future Biblical prophecy. 'Light' is a key word in many of the Bible passages we traditionally read at Christmas, so let's take this opportunity to allow God's Word to speak to us afresh. Remember to pray before you begin!

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into being through Him, and apart
from Him nothing came into being that has come
into being.
4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness did not comprehend it.
There came a man sent from God, whose name
was John.
He came as a witness, to testify about the Light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about
the Light.

9 There was the true Light which, coming into the
world, enlightens every man.
He was in the world, and the world was made
through Him, and the world did not know Him.
He came to His own, and those who were His
own did not receive Him.
But as many as received Him, to them He gave
the right to become children of God, *even* to those
who believe in His name,
13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the
flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among
us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only
begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying,
"This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after
me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before
me.'"
16 For of His fullness we have all received, and
grace upon grace.
For the Law was given through Moses; grace
and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
No one has seen God at any time; the only
begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has explained *Him*.

The First Coming of the Light

Read John 1:1-4. Mark Word including pronouns and Light.

v1-4. What do you learn about the Word?

Read v5-8. Mark Light including pronouns, darkness and believe.

v5. What do you learn about the Light?

v6-8. Who came to testify about the Light and why?

Read v9-13. Mark light including pronouns and believe.

v9-11. What did you learn about the Light?

v12 What right is given to those who receive the Light and believe in His name?

v13. How are they described?

Read v14-18. Mark Word /only begotten and pronouns.

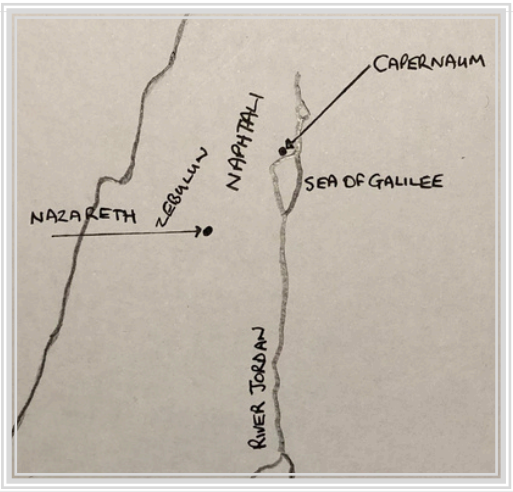
v14-16. Number off in the text what you learn about the Word - the first one has been done for you. 1

INSIGHT: the only begotten (Strongs 3439 monogenes) - single of a kind, only.

v17-18. Who is the Word, the Light?

REFLECT: Have you received Jesus Christ believed in His name?

John, one of Jesus' apostles and author of John's Gospel, called Jesus Christ 'the Word'. He also called Him 'the true Light which enlightens every man'. Was this a new concept or had God declared this truth before? Continue to find out.



Matthew 4:12-16

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;
and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.
14 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:
"THELAND OFZEBULUN AND THE LANDOF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES
16 "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."

Luke 1:76-79

76 "And you [John the Baptist], child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS;
77 To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,
Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,
TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 2:30,32

30 For my [Simeon] eyes have seen Your [God] salvation,
A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel."

John 8:12, 12:35-36a

12 Then Jesus again 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."
35
So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.
36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

INSIGHT: Isaiah prophesied about 700 years before Christ was born.

READ Matthew4:12-16andunderlinetheplaces, darkness/shadow of death and light.

v12-13. Use the map to see where Jesus went.

v14. Why did Jesus do this?

v15-16. How does Jesus fulfil Isaiah's prophesy or what's the relationship between Jesus and Light?

Luke also quotes Isaiah.
READ Luke 1:76-79. Marksalvation, underline the phrase 'forgiveness of sins',mark Sunrise/shine and darkness/shadow of death.

v76. What do you learn about John?

v77 What was his message?

v78. How is God's tender mercy demonstrated?

v79. What will He do when He visits?

According to this passage and the others we have looked at, who is the Sunrise from on high?

When40daysold,Jesuswasseeninthetemple havingbeenbroughtthereby MaryandJoseph.
READ Luke 2:30,32. Mark salvation and light.

v30. What did Simeon say when he saw Jesus?

v32. How did Simeon describe Jesus?

What does Jesus say about the light?
READ John 8:12 and 12:35-36a. Mark Light, walk, darkness and believe.

v12. How did Jesus describe Himself?
What did He promise?

v35-36 What 2 commands does Jesus give? Why?

INSIGHT: Believe (Strongs 4100 pisteuo) - a firm conviction of, a personal surrender to and a conduct inspired by (Vines).

REFLECT: Who are you following? How or where are you walking?

Ephesians 5: 8,10

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Lightin the Lord; walk as children of Light
trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Colossians 1:13-14

13 For He [God] rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, 8-9

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;
for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;
But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 60:1-3,19

1 "Arise, shine; for your [Jerusalem, Israel] light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you.
3 "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.
"No longer will you have the sun for light by day, Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; But you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, And your God for your glory.

Malachi 4:2

2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

Revelation 21:23

23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.

Let's see what Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus and Colossae.

READ Ephesians 5:8,10 and Colossians 1:13-14.
Mark words and phrases as before.
V8,10. How are believers described?

What are they instructed to do?

How do you think they can learn? From what/who?

v13-14. What has God done for believers?

INSIGHT: Redemption (Strongs 629 apoloytrosis) - a releasing upon payment of a ransom.

The Second Coming of the Light

The day of the Lord (v4 'the day'), is a period of timeyettocome,describedingreatdetailbyboth theOldandNewTestaments.Ourfocushereisto continuetolearnwhatwecanabout'light',inthe knowledge that Jesus is coming back.

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, 8-9. Mark as before.
v4-5. How are brethren (believers) described?

v8-9 What do you learn from marking salvation?

INSIGHT: Salvation (Strongs4991 soteria) - deliverance, preservation,safety. Itcanreferto thepresentpossession of all true Christians and also their future salvation after the visiblereturn of Christ.

How should v8-9 motivate us?
We saw earlier that Isaiah prophesied about Jesus' 1st coming, here he speaks of His 2nd coming. READ Isaiah 60:1-3,19. Mark as before, including glory.

v1-2. Who will rise upon Jerusalem?

What is the contrast with the rest of the earth?

v3. What will then happen?
v19. Who will be the source of Israel's light and for how long?

READ Malachi 4:2. Mark sun of righteousness.

v2. When Jesus has come once more to Jerusalem to reign as King of Kings, what is the promise for those who fear God's name?

READ Revelation 21:23 which speaks of the eternal home for all God's children. Mark glory/lamp.
v23. Who will illumine the city? Be its lamp?

And who is the Lamb? On seeing Jesus, John the Baptist said, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." John 1:29

REFLECT: What a hope we have – the gift of salvation, the forgiveness of sins for all who believe in Jesus and receive Him as the Light of the world, as well as the promise of eternal life when we will dwell in the presence of the Light forever. No more darkness, rescued and transferred into the kingdom of God's Son to become children of God, children of Light. How are you going to respond to all that you have learnt about the 1st and 2nd coming of the Light?

We have seen many names that Jesus is called: The Lamb of God, the Word, the life, the Light,the Sunrise from on high, the sun of righteousness, only begotten God, the Light of the world.

We have been challenged to receive the Light that enlightens every man and become children of God. As His children we have been instructed to walk in the Light and learn what is pleasingtothe Lord. And how do we do this? By spending time getting to know Him through studying HisWord, the Bible, asking the Holy Spirit to transform our thinking as we submit to His authority,sharing fellowship with other believers and living out what we learn.

2 Peter 1:19 "So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do welltopay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morningstar arises in your hearts."

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

About this study

This study has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation and provides you with a structure to study Scripture, with questions to help you see, think about and reflect on. You have been given a small insight into inductive Bible study through three key parts:

OBSERVE - **What does the text say?**
INTERPRET - **What does the text mean?**
APPLY - **How can I apply the meaning of the text to my life?**

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply and live differently.

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Precept.org.nz/shop has a wide range of inductive study resources to help you to Know God Deeply and Live Differently as a result. With **FREE** Lightning & Discovery studies (like this one!) to download, along with devotional (Lord Series), 40 Minute, Precept Upon Precept and much more, there's a study for everyone including for children and youth! So, no matter whether you're new to Bible study or an experienced theologian, you can discover the truth of God's Word today.

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Following on from this study, you might like to discover more about Jesus' 2nd coming. We'd recommend our New Inductive Study Series (NISS) on Daniel, 1&2 Thessalonians and Revelation or the 40Minute Study on Discovering What The Future Holds (Daniel).
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