

The Journey of Light

John 1:5-14

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, 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 beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. NKJV

In this passage John is describing the struggle between light and darkness. Light is identified with the Word and represents all that God has communicated to His rebellious. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way. Heb 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person NKJV

God has called prophets and in various other ways has made his will known to mankind. But man has consistently rejected it. In some cases man has not only rejected it but has opposed the Word of God at every turn.

- I. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - A. The NEB uses the word mastered to convey the dual areas of meaning carried by the Greek *katalambano*. On one hand, this word can refer to physical restraint, controlling, or conquering. On the other hand, the word can allude to a mental grasping or understanding. John may well have meant both. Unbelievers did not comprehend Christ's true identity and tried to conquer him. Thus, darkness failed on both counts to master Christ! Life Application Bible Commentary
 - B. This statement indicates the struggle between the darkness and the light. The darkness—unregenerate humanity under the influence of Satan, the prince of darkness—has not accepted the light and even resists the light. Thus, “darkness” indicates ignorance and sin, active rejection of God's will. Those in darkness reject Christ, his light, and his followers. But no matter how deep the darkness, even a small light can drive it back. The power of Christ's light overcomes any darkness in the world. Life Application Bible Commentary
 - C. We were also once in darkness.
 1. Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
- II. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

- A. 7-8 John the Baptist - he was the first to point people to Christ
- III. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - A. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
 - 1. Reflectors Like John the Baptist, we are not the source of God's light; we merely reflect that light. Jesus Christ is the true Light; he helps us see our way to God and shows us how to walk along that way. But Christ has chosen to reflect his light through his followers to an unbelieving world, perhaps because unbelievers are not able to bear the full blazing glory of his light firsthand. The word witness indicates our role as reflectors of Christ's light. We are never to present ourselves as the light to others, but are always to point them to Christ, the Light. LAB Commentary
 - B. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
- IV. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - A. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - B. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - C. who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- V. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. NKJV

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else. C. S. Lewis

There is enough light for those who only desire to see the light, and enough darkness for those who only desire the contrary. —Blaise Pascal Life Application Bible Commentary: John