

**SERIES: The Christ of Christmas  
The Light  
Isaiah 9:2; John 1:4**

**Big Idea – Jesus came as the Light into a sin-darkened world.**

John's Gospel uses the word "life" thirty-six times. What are the essentials for human life?

at least four: light (if the sun went out, everything would die), air, water, and food.

Jesus is all of these! He is the Light of life and the Light of the world (John 8:12). He is the "Sun of righteousness"

(Mal. 4:2). By His Holy Spirit, He gives us the "breath of life" (John 3:8; 20:22), as well as the Water of life (John 4:10, 13-14; 7:37-39).

Finally, Jesus is the Living Bread of Life that came down from heaven (John 6:35ff). He not only has life and gives life, but He is life (John 14:6)

Isaiah 9:2 "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness."

**1. The whole world lies in spiritual darkness**

Proverbs 4:19 "The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."

John 3:19 "...this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Those who believe on Christ are the "sons of light" (John 12:35-36). Just as the first Creation began with "Let there be light!" so the New Creation begins with the entrance of light into the heart of the believer (2 Cor. 4:3-6).

## 2. Jesus came as a light into this darkness

The coming of Jesus Christ into the world was the dawning of a new day for sinful man

Luke 1:78 "Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,  
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

1 John 1:5 Here is the message we have heard from Christ and now announce to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

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

John 12:46 I have come as light into the world so that whoever believes in me would not stay in darkness.

You would think that blind sinners would welcome the light, but such is not always the case. The coming of the true light brought conflict as the powers of darkness opposed it.

A literal translation of John 1:5 reads, "And the light keeps on shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it or understood it."

The Greek verb can mean "to overcome" or "to grasp, to understand."

Throughout the Gospel of John, you will see both attitudes revealed: people will not understand what the Lord is saying and doing and, as a result, they will oppose Him.

Whenever Jesus taught a spiritual truth, His listeners interpreted it in a material or physical way. The light was unable to penetrate the darkness in their minds.

This was true when He spoke about the temple of His body (John 2:19-21),

the new birth (John 3:4),

the living water (John 4:11),

eating His flesh (John 6:51ff),

death as sleep (John 11:11-13), and many other spiritual truths.

Satan strives to keep people in the darkness, because darkness means death and hell, while light means life and heaven.

This fact helps explain the ministry of John the Baptist (John 1:6-8).

### **3. John came to bear witness to the light**

John 1:6 There was a man named John who was sent by God.

7 He came to tell people the truth about the Light so that through him all people could hear about the Light and believe.

8 John was not the Light, but he came to tell people the truth about the Light.

John was sent as a witness to Jesus Christ, to tell people that the Light had come into the world. The nation of Israel, in spite of all its spiritual advantages, was blind to their own Messiah!

The word “witness” is a key word in this book; John uses the noun fourteen times and the verb thirty-three times.

John the Baptist was one of many people who bore witness to Jesus, "This is the Son of God!" Alas, John the Baptist was martyred and the Jewish leaders did nothing to prevent it.

### **4. The darkness cannot overcome the light**

Why did the nation reject Jesus Christ? Because they "knew Him not." They were spiritually ignorant. Jesus is the "true Light"—the original of which every other light is a copy—but the Jews were content with the copies. They had Moses and the Law, the temple and the sacrifices; but they did not comprehend that these "lights" pointed to the true Light who was the fulfillment, the completion, of the Old Testament religion.

Jesus taught the people that He is the fulfillment of all that was typified in the Law. It was not enough to be born a Jew; they had to be born again, born from above (John 3).

He deliberately performed two miracles on the Sabbath to teach them that He had a new rest to give them (John 5; 9).

He was the satisfying manna (John 6) and the life-giving Water (John 7:37-39).

He is the Shepherd of a new flock (John 10:16), and He is a new Vine (John 15).

But the people were so shackled by religious tradition that they could not understand spiritual truth. Jesus came to His own world that He had created, but His own people, Israel, could not understand Him and would not receive Him. They saw His works and heard His words. They observed His perfect life. He gave them every opportunity to grasp the truth, believe, and be saved.

Jesus is the way, but they would not walk with Him (John 6:66-71).

He is the truth, but they would not believe Him (John 12:37ff).

He is the life, and they crucified Him!

John 1:11 He came to the world that was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God.

13 They did not become his children in any human way—by any human parents or human desire. They were born of God.

John 1:12-13 gives us the marvelous promise of God that anyone who receives Christ will be born again and enter the family of God!

John 3:3 “Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

4 “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.”

Here John points out here that it is a spiritual birth from God, not a physical birth that depends on human nature.

The Light is still shining! Have you personally received the Light and become a child of God?