

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sun is a bright orange circle in the center of the frame, partially obscured by a thin layer of clouds. The sky is dark, and the beach is visible in the foreground. A person is walking on the beach in the distance on the right side. The text is overlaid on the image.

THE LIGHT SHINES

in the

DARKNESS

~~DARKNESS~~

did not

OVERCOME IT







and when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! *If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

They will pass through it hard-pressed and hungry; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and look upward. Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness. Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first he lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*

ISAIAH 8, 19 – 9, 2

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, **he is** precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

But you **are** a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;** who once **were** not a people but **are** now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Beloved, I beg **you** as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honourable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by **your** good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.



THE LIGHT SHINES

IN

THE DARKNESS
THE DARKNESS


DID NOT
OVERCOME IT


In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made. **In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 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 his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.

JOHN 1, 1 – 14



n the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.* And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

he LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust *and* lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set *them* among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he has set the world upon them.

He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by strength no man shall prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven he will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth."

GENESIS 1, 1 – 5 & 1 SAMUEL 2, 7 – 10A

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each according to his works. Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him.

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear him!"

MATTHEW 16 & 17,

He made darkness canopies around him,
dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.
From the brightness before him coals of
fire were kindled. The LORD thundered
from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice.



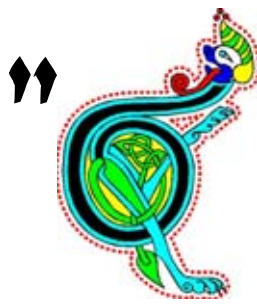
You will save the humble people; but your eyes
are on the haughty, *that* you may bring *them*
down. *For you are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD*
shall enlighten my darkness. As for God, his way
is perfect; the word of the LORD *is* proven; he *is*
a shield to all who trust in him. For who *is* God,
except the LORD? And who *is* a rock, except our
God? ”

II SAMUEL 22,

” **W**hen the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides **his** sheep from the goats. And he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I **was** naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.’

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed **you**, or thirsty and give **you** drink? When did we see you a stranger and take **you** in, or naked and clothe **you**? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did **it** to one of the least of these my brethren, you did **it** to me.’”

MATTHEW 25, 31 – 40



Behold, God is exalted by his power; who teaches like him? Who has assigned him his way, or who has said, 'You have done wrong'? Remember to magnify his work, of which men have sung. Everyone has seen it; Man looks on *it* from afar.

Behold, God *is* great, and we do not know *him*; nor can the number of his years *be* discovered. For he draws up drops of water, which distil as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down *and* pour abundantly on man. Indeed, can *anyone* understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from his canopy?

Look, he scatters his light upon it, and covers the depths of the sea. For by these he judges the peoples; he gives food in abundance. He covers *his* hands with lightning, and commands it to strike. He comes from the north *as* golden *splendour*; with God *is* awesome majesty. *As for* the Almighty, we cannot find him; *he is* excellent in power, *in* judgement and abundant justice; he does not oppress. Therefore men fear him; he shows no partiality to any *who are* wise of heart."

JOB, 36 & 37





The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I *will be* confident.

One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret place of his tabernacle he shall hide me; he shall set me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in his tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD. Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

PSALMS 27, 1 – 7

”**B**lessed is the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, who **have been** since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy **promised** to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

And you, child [John the Baptist], will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring [Messiah, Christ] from on high has visited us; **to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**”

LUKE 1, 68 – 79

“**L**ord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; **for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.**” And Joseph and his [Jesus’] mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this **child** is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

LUKE 2, 29 – 35





n oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *There is* no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes, when he finds out his iniquity *and* when he hates. The words of his mouth *are* wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise *and* to do good. He devises wickedness on his bed; he sets himself in a way *that is* not good; he does not abhor evil.

Your mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds. Your righteousness *is* like the great mountains; your judgements *are* a great deep; O LORD, you preserve man and beast. How precious *is* your loving-kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your pleasures. *For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.* Oh, continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright in heart.

PSALMS 36, 1 – 10





he heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.*

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

PSALMS 19,



our word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep your righteous judgements. I am afflicted very much; revive me, O LORD, according to your word. Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me your judgements. My life *is* continually in my hand, yet I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from your precepts. Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the very end. Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for your commandments. Look upon me and be merciful to me, as your custom *is* toward those who love your name. Direct my steps by your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because *men* do not keep your law.

PSALMS 119,



”**N**o one has ascended to heaven but he who came down from heaven, **that is,** the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.


He who believes in him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** For everyone practising evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

After these things Jesus and his disciples came into the land of Judea, and there he remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison. Then there arose a dispute between **some** of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, he is baptizing, and all are coming to him!"

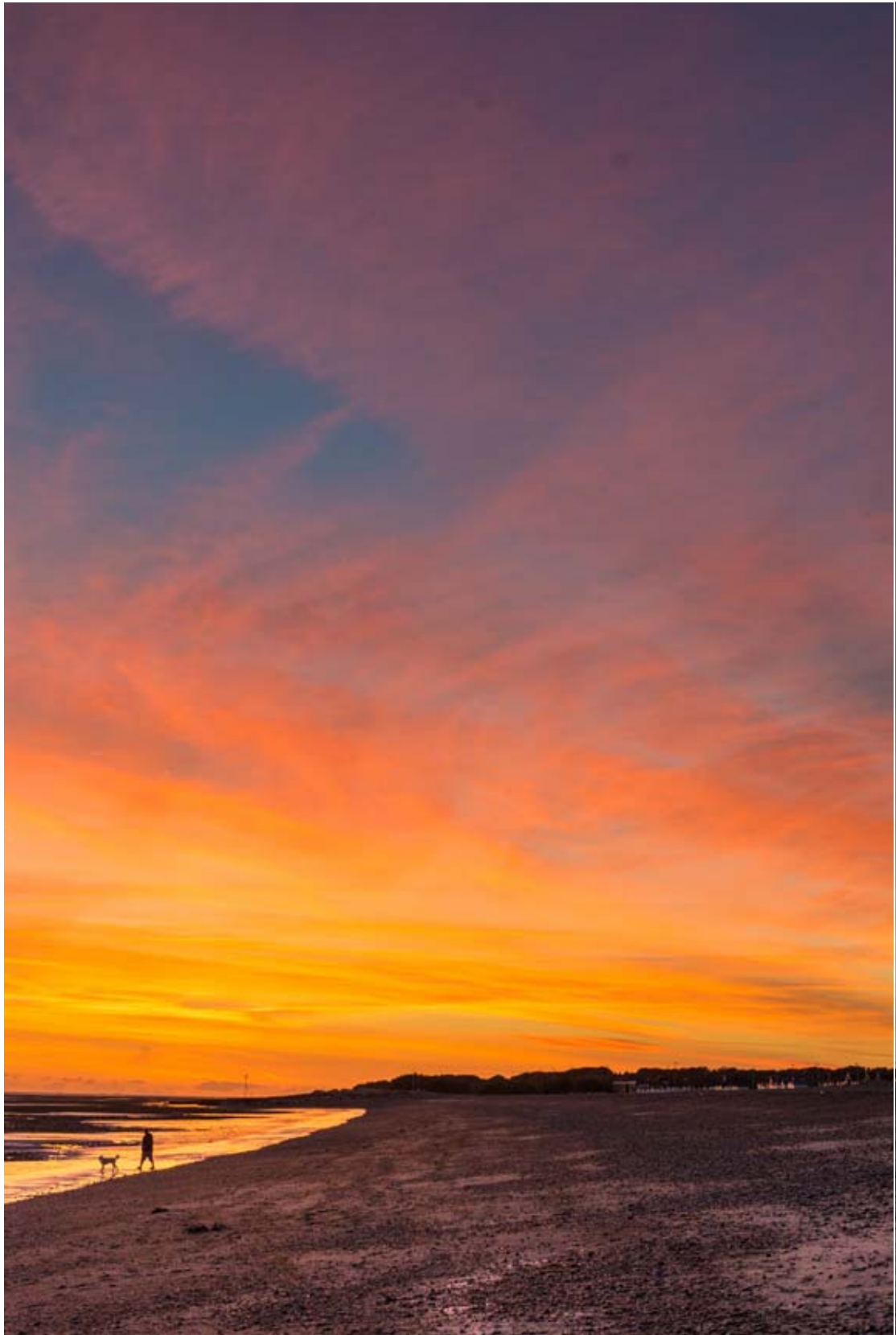
John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I **must** decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth.

He who comes from heaven is above all. And what he has seen and heard, that he testifies; and no one receives his testimony. He who has received his testimony has certified that God is true. For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. **The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life;** and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

JOHN 3, 13 – 36

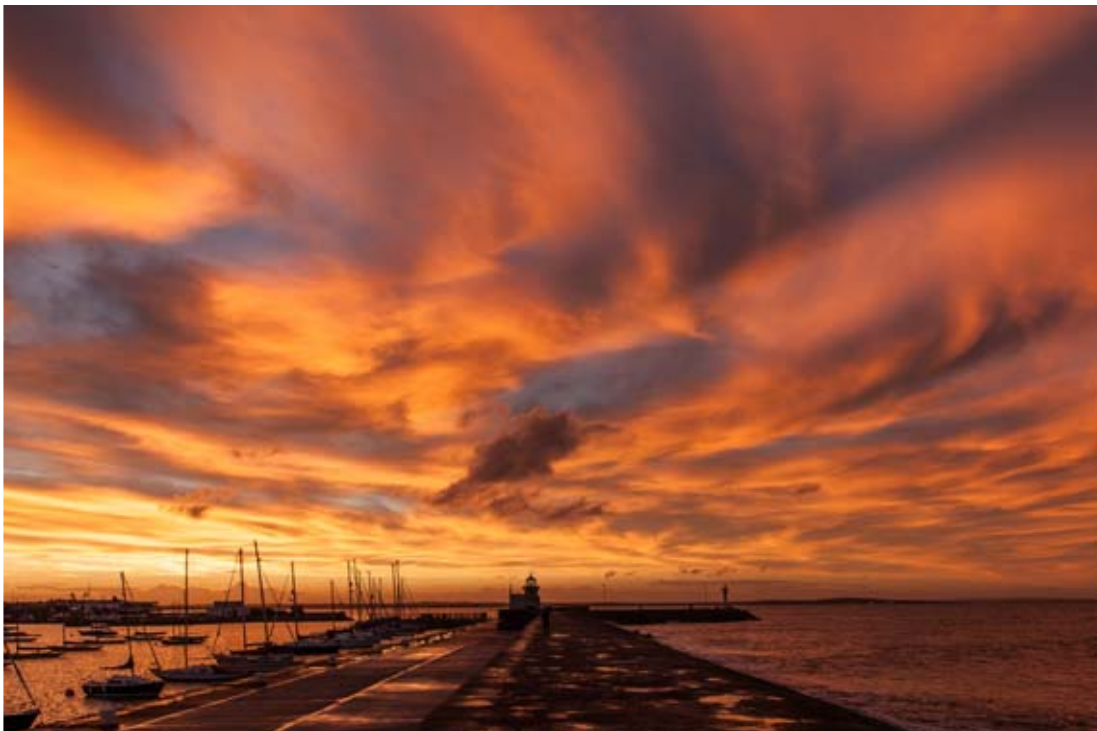
ord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you *are* God. ***For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.*** Make us glad according to the days *in which* you have afflicted us, the years *in which* we have seen evil. Let your work appear to your servants, and your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.

PSALMS 90,



Then 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. Even if I bear witness of myself, my witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, my judgement is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am one who bears witness of myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness of me."

JOHN 8,





The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround him; righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of his throne. A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship him, all *you* gods. Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgements, O LORD. For you, LORD, *are* most high above all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of his saints; he delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holy name.

PSALMS 97, 1 – 12

Now as **Jesus** passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; **the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**"

When he had said these things, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And he said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbours and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others **said**, "He is like him." He said, "I am **he**." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."





he stone which the builders rejected [Jesus Christ] *has become the chief cornerstone.* This was the LORD'S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes. This *is* the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. God is the LORD, and he has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. *You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, I will exalt you.* Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *he is good!* For his mercy *endures* forever.

PSALMS 118, 22 – 29

Coming to him **as to** a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God **and** precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "**Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on him [Jesus Christ] will by no means be put to shame.**" Therefore, to you who believe, **he is** precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

But you **are** a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; who once **were** not a people but **are** now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 PETER 2, 4 – 10



LORD, you have searched me and known *me*. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *but* behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you *are* there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, you *are there*. *If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," *even the night shall be light about me; indeed, the darkness shall not hide from you, but the night shines as the day;* the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to you*.

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. and in your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when *as yet there were* none of them.

Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. But although he had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with **their** eyes, lest they should understand with **their** hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." These things Isaiah said when he saw his glory and spoke of him.

Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And he who sees me sees him who sent me. **I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me should not abide in darkness.**"

JOHN 12,



Jesus spoke these words, lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you, as you have given him authority over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as you have given him. **And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word; that they all may be one, as you, Father, **are** in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And the glory which you gave me I have given them, that they may be one just as we are one: I in them, and you in me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them as you have loved me.

JOHN 17,





he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. *For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;* and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgement and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

ISAIAH 9,



ut you, *Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*” And he shall stand and feed *his flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this *one* shall be peace.”

MICAH 5,

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, **which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.** And this **will be** the sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

LUKE 2, 1 – 12





ruly the light is sweet, and *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; but if a man lives many years *and* rejoices in them all, yet let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. *Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": while the sun and the light, the moon and the stars, are not darkened,* and the clouds do not return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men bow down; when the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows grow dim; when the doors are shut in the streets, and the sound of grinding is low; when one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of music are brought low; also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way; when the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets. *Remember your Creator* before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well.

ECCLESIASTES 11 & 12,





”**T**he God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let **him** go.

But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

Yet now, brethren, I know that you did **it** in ignorance, as **did** also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all his prophets, that the Christ would suffer, he has thus fulfilled.

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things,** which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

ACTS 3,



oe to those who call evil good, and good evil; *who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;* who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his *robe* filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of his glory!"

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here *am*! Send me." And he said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' *Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed.*"

ISAIAH 5 & 6,

”**N**ow when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning him, they took **him** [the crucified Jesus Christ] down from the tree and laid **him** in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses to the people.

And that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’ Therefore he also says in another **Psalm**: ‘You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption.’ For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but he whom God raised up saw no corruption.

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this man [Jesus Christ] is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the Prophets come upon you: ‘Behold, you despisers, marvel and perish!

For I work a work in your days, a work which you will by no means believe, though one were to declare it to you." So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'**" Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

ACTS 13,



Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, my Elect One *in whom* my soul delights! I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for his law." "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; *I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles,* to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. "

ISAIAH 42,



” **A**nd when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? **It is** hard for you to kick against the goads.’ So I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the **Jewish** people, as well as **from** the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, **to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—**that the Christ would suffer, that he would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles.**”

ACTS 26,

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—for until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of him who was to come.

Therefore, as through one man's offence **judgement came** to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one man's [Christ's] righteous act **the free gift came** to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 5,





For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: *"I am the LORD, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth;* I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? Look to me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.

ISAIAH 45,

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **We are** hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; **we are** perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present **us** with you.

II CORINTHIANS 4, 3 – 14



For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, **are called**. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 CORINTHIANS 1,

However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden **wisdom** which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him." But God has revealed **them** to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know **them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 CORINTHIANS 2,



“ Indeed he says, ‘It is too small a thing that you [Messiah, Christ] should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Thus says the LORD: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you; I will preserve you and give you as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; that you may say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth,’ to those who *are* in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures *shall be* on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; for he who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water he will guide them.

I will make each of my mountains a road, and my highways shall be elevated. Surely these shall come from afar; look! Those from the north and the west, and these from the land of Sinim.”

ISAIAH 49,



And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.


Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

For you were once darkness, but now *you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light* (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose **them**. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore he says: "**Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.**" See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

EPHESIANS 4, 30 – 5, 21

↯↯  he Lord GOD has given me [Messiah, Christ] the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him who is* weary. He awakens me morning by morning, he awakens my ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD has opened my ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.

I gave my back to those who struck *me*, and my cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. *He is* near who justifies me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together. Who *is* my adversary? Let him come near me. Surely the Lord GOD will help me; who *is* he *who* will condemn me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of his Servant? **Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God. ”**

ISAIAH 50, 4 – 10



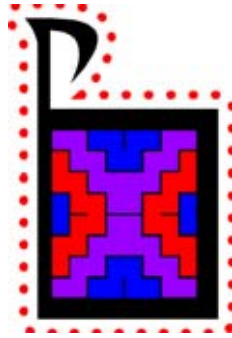
He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed **us** into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence. For it pleased **the Father that** in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight**—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,

which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of his body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to his saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

COLOSSIANS 1 & 3,



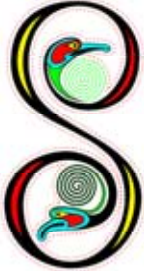
Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden *his* face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, nor does *any* plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; he who eats of their eggs dies, and *from* that which is crushed a viper breaks out.



Their webs will not become garments, nor will they cover themselves with their works; their works *are* works of iniquity, and the act of violence *is* in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts *are* thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction *are* in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, and *there is* no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace. **Therefore justice is far from us, nor does righteousness overtake us; we look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness!**

For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions *are* with us, and *as for* our iniquities, we know them: in transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

ISAIAH 59,

o truth fails, and he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased him that *there was* no justice. He saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor; therefore his own arm brought salvation for him; and his own righteousness, it sustained him.

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to *their* deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; the coastlands he will fully repay.

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. "The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says the LORD.

ISAIAH 59, 15 – 20

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive **and** remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.** Therefore let us not sleep, as others **do**, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and **as** a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1 THESSALONIANS 4 & 5



violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. *"The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.* Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. Also your people *shall* all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time."

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.”

ISAIAH 60, 18 – 61, 3

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he counted me faithful, putting **me** into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did **it** ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This **is** a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on him for everlasting life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, **be** honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY 1, 12 – 17



Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into **this** world, **and it is** certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. For the love of money is a root of all **kinds of** evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Iurge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and **before** Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep **this** commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which he will manifest in his own time, *he who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honour and everlasting power.* Amen.

1 TIMOTHY 6,

When you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land—even the kings who sit on David’s throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—with drunkenness! And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together,” says the LORD. “I will not pity nor spare nor have mercy, but will destroy them.”’ Hear and give ear: Do not be proud, for the LORD has spoken. *Give glory to the LORD your God before he causes darkness, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains, and while you are looking for light, he turns it into the shadow of death and makes it dense darkness.*

But if you will not hear it, my soul will weep in secret for *your* pride; my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears, because the LORD’S flock has been taken captive. Therefore I will scatter them like stubble that passes away by the wind of the wilderness. *This is your lot, the portion of your measures from me,” says the LORD, “because you have forgotten me and trusted in falsehood.”*

JEREMIAH 13,

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, **who** has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

II TIMOTHY 1,





So Daniel went in and asked the king [Nebuchadnezzar] to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation [of the king's dream]. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are his. And he changes the times and the seasons; he removes kings and raises up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. *He reveals deep and secret things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him.*" "I thank you and praise you, O God of my fathers; you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's demand."

Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise *men* of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation." Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation." The king answered and said to Daniel, whose [Babylonian] name *was* Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?" Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: As for you, O king, thoughts came *to your mind while* on your bed, *about* what would come to pass after this; and he who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for *our* sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart. You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour *was* excellent, stood before you; and its form *was* awesome. This image's head *was* of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This *is* the dream.

Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, he has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you *are* this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as Iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And *as* the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God *is* the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”

DANIEL 2, 16 – 47

Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I **must** put off my tent [be martyred], just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory when such a voice came to him from the Excellent Glory: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. **And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke **as they were** moved by the Holy Spirit.

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, **and** bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.





hat which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

This is the message which we have heard from him and declare to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise 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 Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

1 JOHN 1 & 2,



Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; *when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.* I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my case and executes justice for me.

He will bring me forth to the light; I will see his righteousness. Then *she who is* my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will see her; now she will be trampled down like mud in the streets. *In* the day when your walls are to be built, *in* that day the decree shall go far and wide. *In* that day they shall come to you from Assyria and the fortified cities, from the fortress to the River, from sea to sea, and mountain to mountain. Yet the land shall be desolate because of those who dwell in it, and for the fruit of their deeds.

Who *is* a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights *in* mercy.

MICAH 7,

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling **them** out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present **you** faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to God our Saviour, who alone is wise, **be** glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

JUDE 1, 20 – 25



Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is **the** Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgement was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received **his** mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God **is** with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them **and be** their God. **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain,** for the former things have passed away."

Then he who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And he said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. **I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

The foundations of the wall of the city **were** adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation **was** jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates **were** twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city **was** pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. **The Lamb [Christ] is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light,** and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.



And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, **was** the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each **tree** yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree **were** for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him. They shall see his face, and his name **shall be** on their foreheads. **There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.** And they shall reign forever and ever.

Then he said to me, "These words **are** faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show his servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed **is** he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See **that you do not do that.** For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

"**A**nd behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the** Beginning and **the** End, the First and the Last."

Blessed **are** those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside **are** dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practises a lie.

"**I** Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you **these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.**" And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

REVELATION 22, 1 – 17







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