

Walking in Darkness

A world in darkness

Big Question: *What is the significance of Jesus’ radiant, glorious light that he exhibited in the transfiguration?*

What is Light?

Light

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

What is light? If God is light (1 John 1:5), did he create himself in this moment? (No) Then what is going on? When he spoke, did he physically speak? Did soundwaves go forth? If not, then what does it mean that he spoke?

Creation is a stage for God’s glory. In creating light, God publishes his own perfections.

“Light bears testimony of itself. It is its own witness to itself to make itself known.” – St. Augustine. It’s the necessary condition of visibility and intelligibility. Without light, the world would be unintelligible, nature undiscoverable, and its divine author unknown.

It is God’s very nature to reveal himself. He is light, and he creates light, which reveals himself. He makes the world and shines light on it. In its goodness, it shows the goodness of God.

“Light is the representation and visible manifestation of God’s glory and goodness.” – Pastor Brian

Darkness

Unsurprisingly then, darkness is the absence of these things. It is the absence of God’s revealing and creative presence. Genesis 1:1-4 “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over...”

Biblically, darkness next represented ignorance and blindness to who God is.

Proverbs 4:19, “The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

Eventually, darkness represented sin and evil itself.

John 3:19 “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

Finally, darkness is a picture of God’s wrath, as he removes his light in judgment.

Matthew 8:12 describes the “outer darkness” as a synonym for hell itself.

How does God Shine that Light?

Transfiguration

Luke 9:29 “His clothing became dazzling white.”

Matthew 17:2 “His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.”

Mark 9:3 “His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.”

Jesus is how God shines his light.

“If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.” – Jesus, in John 14:9

How Can That Light Change Us?

Peter’s journey toward seeing Jesus.

*2 Timothy 4:2 “...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, **with complete patience** and teaching.” Also, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 2 Corinthians 6:4–6*

So be patient with yourself if you feel like you just do not get it yet. Be patient with others as they learn. And keep seeking Jesus, that you might see more clearly.

Also...

1. Jesus took our darkness.

Luke 23:44 “It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.”

2. It brings us into relationship with the God for whom we exist.

2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

3. As we take his light and he takes our darkness, we walk in relationship and truth with him. We become the light of the world, even as he is the light of the world. Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. What is light, biblically speaking? Put it in your own words that God is light, that he shines his light, and that ultimately it shines in our hearts.
2. Discuss the ways that light is appropriate as a way to describe God.
3. Have you seen Jesus as the light of the world? Do you know him personally in that way, or do you relate to him some other way?
4. Are you walking in darkness or light? Are there any ways that you need to “have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness, but rather expose them?” Ephesians 5:7-13