

John 1 Pt 2 vv 4-12

Fear God

Q. [Odysseus/Matt Damon: The Odyssey] Para: Why can't God speak in ways that we understand?

A. He did and He does...

- **vv1-3** Jesus the Eternal Word

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the **Word** was **with God**, and the Word **was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

The Logos/Word Appeared to Man to Reveal God to Man
Jesus God Incarnate

II. Life and Light

4 In Him was life...

John Reveals Jesus as Love/Light/**Life**
In Him was Life. What is Life?

- **Def. 1** gr. *zōē* **Absolute Fullness of what is Life**: Both essential [Who He is] and ethical [What He does], which belongs to God, and through Him both to the hypostatic "logos" and to Christ in whom the "logos" put on human nature. [IOWs Innately In both Jesus Humanity and Deity is Life] Also, Father and Son and Spirit have/are life and life givers at creation and again at re-creation as God gives man true life through **2nd birth...**

John 5:21 ...the Son gives life to whom He will.

John 10:28 [Jesus] I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish...

Jesus is Life.

Life is not Created. Life Exists in Christ. He is Life. He gives Life

- He is Self-existing
- He is Independent of anything for life yet...

All Creation is Dependent on Jesus for Life AND the Sustaining of Life
Temporal Life/Eternal Life

- **Def. 2 Life Real and Genuine**: New Life. Active and Vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new benefits, among them a more perfect body, and to last forever; i.e. **Eternal Life**

In Jesus was Life. Life that has always been/Is/Always will be
Not received life but life innately found in Jesus

4b ...and the life [intrinsic within Jesus] was the light of men.

In Jesus was **Life**. In Jesus was **Light**
Jesus *Life* was the *Light* that came to a Humanity born Darkness

Ephesians 5:8 For you were **once darkness**, but **now you are light** in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:6 ... 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.

Jesus Life is Light; i.e. Revelation of God

Jesus gives opportunity through Revelation for to men to know God through Him

- Why can't God speak in ways that we understand?

Jesus life gives light to men. Light by definition reveals. The Light of Jesus reveals Truth; i.e. Truth regarding God including His nature, attributes, grace, judgment ...and what God requires of man. [NJC]

- God brings Light/Life through the Written Word
- God brings Light/Life through the Living Word, the **Son of God**

Hebrews 1:1 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**

All that Jesus did/said He saw/heard from His Father

John 5:19 ...the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever **He does, the Son also does in like manner.**

John 14:10 ...The **words that I speak to you I do not speak** on My own authority; but **the Father who dwells in Me...**

- We live in the shadow of a larger reality. We don't know everything; i.e. what is Life? Light?
 1. 1906 JJ Thomson won the Nobel prize proving **Light is Particles**
 2. 1937: 30 yrs. later his son won the Nobel prize for proving **Light is Waves**

Q. Is Light Particles or Waves? **A.** Yes

This Duality remains the Central Paradox of Quantum Physics

The study of matter and energy at a microscopic scale. Atoms/Subatomic Particles

- What does it mean the Jesus is Light? Is Light simply a metaphor?
 1. **Particles** Jesus Humanity
 2. **Waves** Jesus Deity
- **Let there be Light/Physical Light:** Essential for Physical Life on earth/Shadow of larger reality
- **Jesus is the Light of men/Spiritual Light:** Essential for Eternal Life in the larger/true reality

In Jesus was Life and the Life was the Light of Man

Jesus' inherent Life gives Light to the Inherent Darkness in Unregenerated Man

But men must receive the Light...

5 And the light [of men; i.e. Jesus] shines in the darkness, and the darkness did **not comprehend** it.

The Light Shines in the Darkness
The Darkness did not Comprehend

Comprehend: def. to lay hold of ...to lay hold of so as to make one's own, to obtain, attain to, to make one's own, to take into one's self, appropriate to seize upon, take possession of

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

Light will invade the dominion of darkness. Satan the ruler, and his subjects, will resist the light but they will be unable to frustrate it's power. The Word will be victorious in spite of opposition. [Missler]

IOWs Gates of hell will not prevail against the Light of Jesus within His people

Genesis 1:Let there be Light. Lit. Let Light be

In Him was Life. His Life was the Light of/to men
The light shines in the darkness/The darkness did not comprehend

- **Yet when Jesus arrived many were being prepared** to receive His Light through the greatest man who ever live till that time...

6 There was a man sent from God, whose **name was John.**

- **John the Baptist was sent by God:**
 1. Not the writer John but Jesus' cousin
 2. Filled w/Holy Spirit from birth...

Luke 1:14 [John] will also be **filled with the Holy Spirit**, even from his mother's womb.

- Mary 6 months pregnant visits relative Elizabeth also pregnant w/John the Baptist

Luke 1:41 ...when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the **babe leaped** in her womb...

Matthew 11:11 ...among those born of women there has **not risen one greater than John the Baptist...**

John the Baptist: Sent by God to Prepare for the Savior [Mal. 3]
Born ready to usher in the Light of the World

7 [John the Baptist] came for a witness, to **bear witness of the Light**, that **all through him might believe.**

John came from God as a witness of the coming Light

That **all** through him [John] would believe. Both John's have the same purpose.
Salvation

1 Timothy 2:4 God desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that **all should come to repentance**.

God calls *the whosoever*...

Romans 10:13 ...**whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Revelation 22:17 ...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.

Darkness is Exposed before Light is Received
Those who listened to John would be saved/Others left with no excuse

8 [J the B] was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of **that Light**.

John the Baptist: As we are a Moon Reflecting the Sun/Son
Offering the healing we desperately need

Malachi 4:2 But to you who fear My name The **Sun of Righteousness** shall arise With **healing in His wings...**

9 That was the **true Light** which **gives light to every man** coming into the world.

Jesus is the True Light in contrast to all others who only claim to have light

John 10:7 [Before Incarnation] ..."Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

Matthew 24:24 For **false christs** and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Jesus gives Light/Revelation of Himself to every man ever born at any time

John's Message: All men are Darkness/Embrace the True Light
Light is Revelation of Truth. Truth demands a Decision

- **Ignore** the Light
- **Run** from the Light
- **Fight** the Light
- **Extinguish** the Light
- **Embrace the Light:** Only choice leading to eternal life

Our choice determines our personal destiny/Does not change who Jesus is
Jesus the Light of the World

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

Jesus is Light to the Entire World

Isaiah 49:6 I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the **ends of the earth.**"

Jesus is Light to a Dark World...

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the **light of the world.**

Jesus is True Light we reflect to men in darkness by our Good Works

Matthew 5:14 **You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Ephesians 5:2 ...you He made alive, who **were dead** in trespasses and sins. **8...you were once darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

We are born Dead and Dark/Jesus is Life and Light
We are called to Walk in His Light

Ambassadors of Light in/to a Dark/Dying World
Refusing to be offended/Zealous for good works

1 Peter 2:9 ...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 marvelous light...**11 I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable 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.**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Titus 2:13 [We are...] looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Shining the Light of Christ? Doing Good Works before Men for God's Glory

Every Christian should reckon **that he is sent from God to bear witness to the great Light**, that, through us [not just John], men might believe. [Spurgeon]

Jesus is the True Light: Revelation of Truth to a Deceived World in Darkness
Light and Revelation to All Men

- **Revelation of Jesus Life:** First Coming/Words/Actions
- **Revelation of the Spirit:** Convicts the world of Sin/Righteousness/Judgment
- **Revelation of Creation:** Every person possesses knowledge of God through Creation

The world did not comprehend what had happened
The Creator just stepped out of Eternity and into Time

10 [Jesus] was **in the world**, and the **world was made through Him**, and the **world did not know Him**.

Creator walking with/among His creation...

- Healing/Caring
- Loving/Delivering
- Saving

Odysseus exact quote in Odyssey: "You gods don't speak In ways we understand"
Athena: "Who doesn't understand pain? Or blood?"

Not man's pain and blood but Jesus pain and blood as He died in your place to save your idolatrous soul. Pain and Blood are the consequence of our sin. Jesus came to save us from Sin/Death and Hell leaving Heaven to struggle w/us in the dust just as He did Jacob. [NJC]

11 **He came to His own**, and **His own did not receive Him**.

- **His own #1:** gr. Neuter; i.e. He came to All creation
- **His own #2:** gr. Masculine i.e. He came to Humanity

IOWs All Creation Received Him Except Us/Humanity
Men in general Rejected the Revelation of Jesus, but...

12 **...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**.

As many as Received Him/Believed in His Name/Became children of God
Those who are born the flesh then Born again of the Spirit

John 3:3b ...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water** and the **Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

All men have the opportunity to receive the Life/Light of Jesus
Whosoever you are/Wheresoever you came from/Whatsoever you've done
...You can be a Child of God

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

- **Legal Adoption Papers from the Judge**
 1. **Sin is paid for in full.** Resurrection is the receipt
 2. **Entrance to the Father:** Vail now torn to the Holy of Holies
 3. **Access to Intimacy:** To crawl up on His lap

▪ **Adopted by the Father as Children of God**

1. Not born through ancestry [Parent's faith]
2. Not born of natural birth [We are born darkness]
3. Not even because we were searching for God [no one does]

Born of God because He desires to be your Father
To call you [the whosoever] His own...He gave everything

John 3:16 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.

Never to Perish because our Father had a plan before the world began...
Make all things new including you...

1. **New Life:** Born again/Regenerated
2. **New Nature:** Seeking to please God because we love God/others
3. **New Power:** Victory to overcome the sin that kills us
4. **New Desire:** To know Him though His Word walk in newness of Life

John 20:31 ...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

So far the Apostle John wants us to know...

1. **Jesus is Eternal:** Before all beginnings
2. **Jesus is God** of God's. King of Kings.
3. **Jesus is Creator** of all things: Microcosm/Macrocosm/Metacosm [Invisible realm]
4. **Jesus is Life** offered to those dead in sin, hurting, beat down from bad choices.
Whosoever
5. **Jesus is Light** offered by us to those stumbling in darkness, confused, disillusioned

Receive Jesus and Receive Eternal Life.
Come out of the Darkness. Come into the Light and Live

Malachi 4:2 ...and the Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings...