

Sunday, October 19, 2025- Let There Be Jesus the Light of the World-Pastor John Henry Raskin

1. Jesus: The Light from the Beginning

- God spoke light into existence to overcome chaos and darkness.
- Jesus was present at creation as the eternal Light.
 - *Genesis 1:1-5*
 - *Colossians 1:16*

2. Light Foreshadowed in the Old Testament

- Pillar of fire led Israel—God's presence and protection.
- Prophets foretold the coming Light:
 - *Malachi 4:2*
 - *Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in Matthew 4:13-16*

3. Symbols of Light

- The Menorah in the temple symbolized God's constant presence.
- Jesus replaces temporary symbols with eternal reality.

4. Jesus Declares Himself the Light

- Jesus: "I am the light of the world."
 - *John 8:12*
- Jesus is the Word and Light from the beginning.
 - *John 1:1-5*

5. God's Plan and Our Choice

- God sent Jesus to save, not condemn.

- Light exposes darkness; we choose to walk in light or darkness.
- *John 3:16-21*

6. Walking in the Light

- Fellowship and cleansing come from walking in God's light.
 - *1 John 1:5-9*

7. Transformation and Reflection

- God's light shines in our hearts through Jesus.
 - *2 Corinthians 4:6*
- We reflect Jesus' light through good works.
 - *Matthew 5:14-16*

8. Mission to the World

- We are called to be a light to others.
 - *Acts 13:47*
 - *1 Peter 2:9*

9. Eternal Light

- In the New Jerusalem, Jesus is the only light needed.
 - *Revelation 21:23*
- Jesus is the eternal Light, overcoming all darkness.
- We are called to reflect His light in the world.
- The story of light is the story of redemption, fulfilled in Christ

Scripture References

Genesis 1:1-5 | Colossians 1:16 | Malachi 4:2 | Matthew 4:13-16 | John 8:12 | John 1:1-5 | John 3:16-21 | 1 John 1:5-9 | 2 Corinthians 4:6 | Matthew 5:14-16 | Acts 13:47 | 1 Peter 2:9 | Revelation 21:23

LET THERE BE JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the last three weeks we covered what turned out to be an elemental series about water, fire and air or wind.

We discussed Jesus as living water, the fire of God as His presence throughout biblical history and the wind or breath of God that is the Holy Spirit, the beginning and the sustenance of all life.

Today we're going to talk about light and how God spoke it from the beginning into eternity.

More specifically we are going to talk about the Light of the world, Yeshua H'ameshiach, Jesus the Christ.

He was there in the beginning, the designer of all that exists.

The Apostle Paul wrote this about Him...

Colossians 1:16

16 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.

All things are by Him through Him and for Him both known and unknown.

Let's begin then, at the beginning...

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 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. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 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.

First let me say I have always found it interesting that in the Bible, creation at the very beginning is all about the earth.

One minuscule planet in what was not yet an unimaginably vast universe.

I want to point out how profoundly amazing this is.

God.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit as One.

The uncreated Creator.

Omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent.

The great I AM.

So loved those whom He would make in His image, that He centered us in His Mind amidst all of His purposed Creation.

In the beginning, here on the earth, before a single star twinkled above us or a breath of wind stirred, there was only a formless void, a silent darkness.

And into that darkness, the profound, creative voice of God spoke a declaration that echoes still across all of time and space:

"Let there be light". From the very beginning, light was God's powerful answer to chaos and darkness.

Before the sun and stars were created, God spoke, and light burst into existence.

This was a physical act, but it was also a spiritual declaration:

God's presence, goodness, and truth would conquer darkness.

Jesus was always the Light of God Foreshadowed in the Old Testament.

From the very beginning, Jesus, the light of the world, was present in the darkness, waiting for the fullness of time to be revealed.

The Old Testament is a rich tapestry of prophecies and symbols that foreshadow the coming of Jesus as the Light.

When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

A couple of weeks ago, when we spoke of the fire of God, we posited that the Pillar of Fire was a physical manifestation of God's presence, God giving His people light and protection in the darkness during their travels in the desert.

This fiery pillar was the glory of the pre-incarnate Christ, leading his people towards their promised home.

1400 years later, the man Jesus, fully human yet fully God, was born, the fulfillment of that light, guiding us not to a promised land on earth, but to our eternal home in heaven.

400 years before Jesus was born the prophet Malachi spoke these prophetic words...

Malachi 4:2a ESV

But to you who fear My name

The Sun of Righteousness shall arise

With healing in His wings

The prophet Isaiah, writing three centuries before Malachi, foretold of the coming of Messiah as a light to those who were laboring under the darkness of the fear of death.

The Gospel of Matthew confirms that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in detail by Jesus's ministry in Galilee.

Matthew 4:13-16

13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

**By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:**

**16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned.”**

The Candelabra known as the Menorah in the temple, the ever-burning light in the Holy Place, symbolized God's constant, illuminating presence among His people.

It contained places for 7 candles representing the seven days of creation.

The design for this Menorah was given to Moses by God and was used in the temporary temple that traveled with the Israelites in the desert.

The Menorah was also a central feature in Solomon's temple and again in the rebuilt temple that was instituted after the captivity in Babylon.

The Menorah was a temporary shadow of an eternal reality.

When Jesus came, he declared Himself to be the true Temple AND the true light, replacing the temporary with the eternal.

He is the ultimate, unfading light of God's glory.

In the New Testament, Jesus reveals Himself as the light, moving from prophecy to reality.

Jesus asserts His divine identity in the Gospel of John when He declares...

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.”

When Jesus stood up and declared these words, He was announcing his divine identity and purpose.

Just as the Israelites were guided by the pillar of fire in the wilderness, Jesus is our ultimate guide, protector, and spiritual north star.

The Apostle John begins his Gospel by connecting the Creation moment directly to Jesus:

John 1:1-5

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.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind" (John 1:1, 4).

This is more than a poetic parallel; it is a theological foundation.

The Light that God spoke into existence at Creation was not merely a cosmological phenomenon.

That Light was the eternal Word, the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Himself.

As I've spoken many times before, Jesus was never Plan B in God's Creation.

Surely, the all-knowing, all-seeing God had in His plan at the very moment of Creation, the fall of man.

He knew that human free will, which was necessary in order for man to ultimately choose Jesus as Lord,

Had a dark side which would cause him to separate himself from the source of all light and all goodness and all truth.

And for that reason, this gracious, merciful, omnipotent God purposed that He would send the Son of the Trinity in human form

to overcome the darkness and bring those who would choose Him back to Himself.

In separating the darkness from the light and saying that it was good...

God was declaring that in eternity, goodness would rule and reign with all those of us who chose the light.

Moving forward in John's Gospel we see this plan more clearly...

John 3:16-21

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.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "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.

19 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.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Ever since we bought the lie in the Garden of Eden, our world has been in chaos like at the Beginning,

a formless void that the enemy has filled with a spiritual and moral darkness of despair, confusion, and alienation that is overwhelmingly deceptive...

Throughout human history, evil has been baked into our DNA.

In every generation and even today, people are tempted to think that the time in which they live is the worst of all possible times.

But know this beloved...

We only have to read the histories of the Old Testament and the awful stories in the Book of Judges to know that this is not the case...

We are fortunate to live in the time since Jesus came and completed His work to bring Light into the overwhelming darkness of the world.

Because the Lord rules and reigns even now at the Right Hand of the Throne of Grace we are able to see clearly that we have the choice to walk in the light or continue to practice our deeds in the dark.

Following the Light of Jesus means we no longer need stumble in the world's spiritual confusion and despair.

The Bible is our lamp, and Jesus is our way, providing clear direction in a world filled with moral ambiguity and competing claims of truth.

The light of Christ also reveals our inner darkness:

A flashlight in a dark room shows us what is truly there.

In the same way, the light of Jesus' Spirit reveals our secret sins, hidden motives, and ungodly plans.

He illuminates these not to condemn us but to enable us to confront and eliminate them. To give us an opportunity for repentance and healing.

In John's first letter to the early Church he tells us...

1John 1:5-9

5 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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

As we saw earlier in John's Gospel,

The light overcomes the darkness: Darkness has no power against light.

You don't fight darkness; you simply turn on the light.

The darkness of sin, evil, and death cannot overpower the victorious light of Christ.

This is a reminder of the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom.

We who walk in the Light of Christ are also being transformed.

The Apostle Paul explains...

2 Corinthians 4:6

6 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.

Not only are we being transformed by the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ who was revealed in our hearts but those around us will recognize Jesus in who we are and by what we do and be transformed as well.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be reflections of His Light.

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

In this section of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stated, "You are the light of the world" meaning our purpose is to shine in the world so others see our actions and glorify God.

When we accept Jesus as the Light, we are transformed from children of darkness into children of light.

Our role is not to generate light but to reflect the light of Jesus, like the moon reflects the sun.

The world will see our light not through our own righteousness but through our "good works"—the love, mercy, and compassion we show to others.

The purpose of our shining is not to attract attention to ourselves but to lead others to see God and "glorify our Father in heaven".

We are to put our lights on a stand, not under a basket, so that everyone can see.

The offer of salvation should shine through us to everyone we meet with His Light just like the early Church did.

Acts 13:47

47 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.”

1 Peter 2:9

9 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 marvelous light.

The light of Christ gives life.

Just as physical light is essential for life to exist and flourish, spiritual light from Jesus brings life where there was only spiritual death.

He came so that we might have life and have it to more abundantly in the here and now, and also in the Age to come...

Ultimately, in the new heaven and new earth, the only Light will be Jesus.

The Book of Revelation reveals this about the New Jerusalem...

Revelation 21:23

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 is its light.

The narrative of light, from In the Beginning in Genesis to Amen at the end of Revelation, is the story of redemption, fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

He is our eternal light.

If you are struggling, remember the light shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome.

Let's Pray...