
The Dawn of the Sun of Righteousness

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 was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 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 have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 1:1-18 (ESV)

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

And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.” And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?”

He answered, “Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

Matthew 17:1-13 (ESV)

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Malachi 4 (ESV)

Today's Roadmap

- The coming of Elijah
 - The dawn of the sun of righteousness
 - The light of the new covenant
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The Coming of Elijah

- John the Baptist comes in the spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:11-17)
 - Jesus prophesied, John leaps in his mother's womb (Luke 1:26-56)
 - John the Baptist born (Luke 1:67-80)
 - John the Baptist's ministry (John 1:19-34)
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The Coming of Elijah

- So is John the Baptist “Elijah” or not?
Hmm...

The Dawn of the Sun of Righteousness

- Birth of Jesus, the Dawn (Luke 2:1-21)
- Light of the World (John 1:1-18)
- The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)

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- Fulfillment of Malachi:
 - “Elijah” → John the Baptist

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The Dawn of the Sun of Righteousness

- Fulfillment of Malachi:
 - “Elijah” → John the Baptist
 - Elijah and Moses → Disappear at the Mount, the Father says to **listen to Jesus (new covenant)**
 - Sun of Righteousness → Jesus
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Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.

Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

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.

2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:6 (ESV)

What does this mean for us?

- Jesus has transitioned us from the era of the Mosaic Law (the time of Malachi) to a new covenant where we are filled, renewed, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit
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What does this mean for us?

- Prior to this, we were carnal, sinful beings like beasts
 - Titus 3:3
 - Psalm 73:21-22

What does this mean for us?

- God never wanted us to be controlled like animals, but to live in holiness out of our delight in Him

What does this mean for us?

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.” **Psalms 32:8-9**

What does this mean for us?

- Jesus arrived on earth amongst animals. He, the bread of life, was born in a manger, the feeding place of animals, in Bethlehem (the House of Bread). He came to offer us (beastly, barbaric sinners) bread that can give us true life.
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Response

- God, are there ways in which I am “like a beast toward you”? If so, what light do you want to shine on this?
 - God, what does it look like to let your light continually shine upon my heart?
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