



## *The DAY the WORLD CHANGED*

AN ADVENT SERIES

LIFE OR DEATH

**JOHN 1:9**

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

**Scripture: JOHN 1:4-5**

**SUMMARY:**

The day Jesus was born changed the world. God became flesh to live among us, to show us His love and to save those who believe. Jesus came to change the lives of all who receive Him. While Jesus draws people to Himself, He never forces obedience. To believe, receive, love and serve Him are choices. Jesus presents clear and definitive choices! Choose today; Life or Death!

- With the light comes life. With the darkness, only death.
- Not everyone receives the light. Many reject the light choosing darkness instead. But to those who receive the light, believing in Jesus, they are the ones who become children of God.

**Jesus Shines Life in Darkness!**

**JOHN 1:4-5 ESV**

*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.*

Choose Life or Choose Death ~ Choose Light or Choose Darkness

With Jesus there is light and life. Without him there is death and darkness.

## **1. The life in Jesus, now in the world, came to be The True Light of humanity.**

John lays out the life giving deity of Jesus in verses 1-3. He then goes to the heart of the purpose in his coming to change the world. Jesus is life and his life is the light of men's lives; establishing his rule over the darkness in the world and preparing the way for his eternal rule where there will be no more darkness.

*Life* - Appears 36 times in The Gospel of John. More than 25% of all the New Testament references to life are found in the Gospel of John.

Kenneth O. Gangle, *Holeman Bible Commentary: John*. P. 8.

- Jesus Christ the *Creator* provides physical life;
- Jesus Christ the *Redeemer* provides spiritual life;
- Jesus Christ the *Savior* provides eternal life.

Kenneth O. Gangle, *Holeman Bible Commentary: John*. P. 10.

Jesus alone is the life-giver and light-bearer.

Kenneth O. Gangle, *Holeman Bible Commentary: John*. P. 10.

### **PSALM 36:9**

*For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.*

## **2. Jesus (The True Light) shines in the darkness.**

### **GENESIS 1:1-5ESV**

*[1] In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. [2] 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.[3] And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. [4] And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. [5] God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

## **3. Darkness is powerless against Jesus (The True Light).**

### **JOHN 1:9**

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

- Darkness could not extinguish it. Darkness could not overcome it.
- Comprehend it, understand it, grasp it, suppress it, apprehend it or absorb it.
- Hard to define! Totally incapable of overcoming!

- Each person must allow the light to come in! Choose the light of Jesus. Choose life in Jesus.

**MATTHEW 4:16**

*“The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”*

**JOHN 12:46**

*I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*

**JOHN 12:35-36**

*So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. [36] While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”*

## *Life Application Guide*

1. Do you have a story of darkness? Recount what happened. What lessons did you learn?
2. Jesus came so that we may have life (John 10:10). What parallels are there between life and light? From Genesis 1?
3. Describe elements in the world that are associated with darkness. (Sin, murder, lying, etc.)
4. Are any of the things in this world that you associate with darkness/death also associated with Jesus? Name things in this world associated with the light/life of Jesus!
5. Too often people choose things of this world that lead to or associated with darkness/death! Why do people choose darkness rather than the light?
6. What choice have you made? What difference has that choice brought in your life? How are you sharing the light of Jesus with those in darkness?
7. Jesus quoting from Isaiah launched his earthly ministry saying, “the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16
8. PRAY: Ask the Lord to open doors this Christmas season for the light within you, the true light of Jesus, to shine upon those living in darkness!