

# Darkness to Light

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Title **Light of life**

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 8/31/2019

Brethren, I have written a book: **Plan of God - Darkness to Light**. It arrived from the printer's this week. I am holding a proof copy in my hands – Knock – knock. It is a big book – 724 pages! It is all about what God is doing.

In this book: – The **Plan of God** is outlined from beginning to end as it is revealed in Scripture, in an orderly fashion. There are more than fifty verses throughout the pages of the Bible that **specifically** utilize both 'darkness' and 'light.' God utilizes darkness and light throughout the Scriptures.

You are all aware of my concerns that we are eventually going to lose our **religious freedom**, and our access to the internet.

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the **words of the Lord**.

Brethren, I would like for you to have a **hard copy** of this book. I wrote this book to illustrate the Biblical timeline of the Plan of God, and a chronological outline of its most important events and **themes**, past present and future.

It is not an oxymoron to state that one of the purposes of this book, to **illuminate – light**. This Book is **my understanding** of how the spiritual things God are working out!

The theme of Darkness to Light opens with darkness in Genesis 1:2 and runs through the entirety of the Bible to the very last chapter of the Book of Revelation where we read in Genesis 22:5, "The Lord God gives them light."

I wrote this book in order for you, the saints of the Church of God, to have a framework in which to study God's Word and properly interpret prophecy.

One important Biblical **theme** is that of "Darkness and Light."

Matthew 4:16 The people who sat in **darkness** saw **great light** (1<sup>st</sup> mention of light in the New Testament); and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death – **light** is **sprung up**.

**Light** is sprung up – is a reference to Jesus Christ. Ultimately all Scripture points to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the **only** door to His Father – Our Father.

The Biblical theme of God's magnificent Plan of bringing mankind out of abject Darkness into **His brilliant Light** is systematically explained in this **new book**. Hot off the press!

In this book I answer questions like: When did the Plan of God originate, ...how has it progressed, and ...what will be its ultimate culmination?

This book, Plan of God – Darkness to Light brings the process to light of how God is creating man for the supreme purpose and goal of **reproducing Himself**. This book is the Biblical account of how God's Plan is unfolding before our eyes. God has a purpose for His creation! What is God's ultimate Plan?

God tells us that mankind will be fashioned into His glorious image and likeness. God is replicating Himself, and He graciously gives mankind a part in His divine **regenerative** aspiration. The beloved apostle John says it this way, "**We shall be like Him**; for we shall see Him as He is (1John 3:2)."

Brethren, it is wise for us to establish – without a doubt in our minds – that Jesus – and His way of life – is the true **enlightenment**.

Then, it goes without saying that we must know why He came to this earth and what He stood for. And since knowing is not enough, we must also **follow in His steps**, without exception, throughout life, until death. Jesus said in:

Matthew 5:13 You are the **salt of the earth**:

Salt was a highly valued commodity in Jesus' day. Every now and then you may hear a person say that someone is, "**worth his salt**."

That expression means that someone has a lot of **value**. In Jesus' day salt was so valuable that the Roman soldiers were sometimes **paid** with salt instead of money. That is where our English word "salary" derives from. Jesus used this **idiomatic expression** to show how our lives are to be of great **value** to Him. He told His audience that they were created to be of **value to God**:

Matthew 5:13 You are the **salt of the earth**: but if the salt has lost its savor, how can it be of any use? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Then, right there in **mid-lesson**, Jesus switched analogies from **salt** to **light**! While describing to His followers how they were to be living their lives in accordance with the be-attitudes, Jesus shifted gears from the **salt of the earth** – to the **light of the world**. He explained how Christians are to **witness** to everyone with whom they come into contact. It is not an option.

In God's Church we are told to come out of the world – and be separate (2Corinthians 6:14-17). That is true! We are not to be a part of this Godless world.

But we live here and we are supposed to be **recognizable** as Christians by all with whom we come into contact. Christians are to **witness** to everyone with whom they come into contact. Jesus charged His disciples to make sure that others saw their Christian deeds: Read this with me and understand the words of Jesus:

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the **light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel basket, but on a candlestick so that; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. **Let your light so shine** before men, that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus says that this is the way we **must** be living our lives – that is, if we are His faithful followers. Jesus said, don't live your lives in the **dark**!

**"Let your light so shine** before men, that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

John 8:12 Jesus spoke, saying, I am the **light of the world**: he that follows me **shall not** walk in **darkness**, but shall have the **light of life**.

To **walk in light** means to be living in that **righteousness** that God the Father sees **in us** through the lens – through the view finder of the perfection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To **walk in light** means to be living in righteousness. God alone creates righteousness in those who seek Him, and pursue His truth. Walking in the steps of Jesus Christ is not a stroll in the park! It is hard. It is difficult.

It does not come naturally – to walk in the steps of Jesus Christ. Men readily comprehend the disparity between phrases such as, "works of darkness" and "let one's light shine." Almost instinctively, we perceive that one is evil, while the other is proper and beneficial.

Darkness is associated with things that are evil, like ignorance, sin, death and the devil. Our very existence is centered in light. And yet, we too often take it for granted.

As the concept of light expands in Scripture, we begin to see how light represents the upright characteristics of God – while darkness epitomizes the vile and contemptible aspects associated with the absence of Godliness.

Light is used to symbolize God, His holiness, and goodness, among His many other attributes. God is spiritual radiant light. God's essence is of light. We must be literally transformed out of this **dark** sinful world wherein in times past we walked our course.

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:

Brethren, how far have we come out of that **darkness**? A new transformation in Christ requires – yes, demands, our yielded active involvement as we put off our former ways and deeds—and begin to put on the characteristics of Jesus Christ – the **Light of the world**.

Romans 12:2 Be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, **will of God**.

Brethren, I submit to you that it takes some spiritual maturity to **show forth** the praises of Him who has purchased us – and to **Let our light shine**, without appearing as self-righteous and boastful.

We have to find that fine line where we **seek and live** the **will of God** – making sure that God gets all the praise and credit.

1Peter 2:9-10 You [Church brethren] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people purchased and possessed by God; that you should **show forth** the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Who in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God.

Our lives must **reflect** the life of Christ – we must walk in His path.

1Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should **follow His steps**:

We would be wise to ask ourselves if **our light** shines in this darkened world.

Philippians 2:15 Become blameless and harmless children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom **you shine as lights** in the world.

I believe this concept of letting our light shine has been sorely neglected by the Church of God brethren. Let's honestly ask ourselves this question: To what extent have we really changed to the core of our being? To what extent have we put off our former ways and deeds?

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things **above** [Godly things], not on the things on the earth.

Colossians 3:7 In the which ye also **walked** some time, when ye lived in them. [Do we realize how much we walked in darkness?]

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off the old man** with his **deeds**;

When people don't know something, they will sometimes respond, "I'm in the **dark**." It's the same as saying, "I don't know."

Then, it goes without saying that we must **know** why Jesus Christ had to come to this earth and what He stood for. And since **knowing is not enough**, we must also **follow in His steps**, without exception, throughout life, until death.

Romans 4:12 speaks of **walking** in the **steps** of the faith of our father Abraham.

Have you ever wondered what God was thinking before He ever started His vast creation that we see all around us? What is God doing right now? Is God a hands-on creator, always tweaking the direction we are headed, or is He a hands-off God, just waiting to see what happens to everything?

And, where is all of this headed? Will the sun and all the stars finally fizzle out some day as the result of eons of entropy, or is there somehow something wonderful to look forward to? God is constantly interfacing with His people so that His positive expectations for us are met.

Jesus said, "I am working and my Father is also working." (John 5:17)

It would certainly do us well to know **what** God is working at – so that we can be a part of it. Why are so many people unaware of the answers to the most important matters? How will man ever emerge from his abysmal ignorance into the **dazzling light** and wisdom of God?

Some people will maintain that man has arrived at the epitome of his intelligence and reasoning acumen. Some people believe that man is **evolving** into a **brighter** and more intelligent being. "He is smarter now than ever before!"

Few people know that Adam and Eve were created with the most **brilliant** minds that have ever existed in mankind. Adam and Eve were created and designed by God – physically and mentally – to function effectively **only** when in accordance with **divine laws**. Adam and Eve removed themselves from that **guiding light** to their peril—and that of their children.

6,000 years of **sin** have brought abysmal **degradation** and deterioration to the mind of man. That is why we need the **restorative Light** of Christ. We are so sure of our **genius** as **homo sapiens** – that we've named our species, "wise man."

If we are so smart, how is it that man has written such a long and terrible history of devastation and destruction – for his legacy? If we could be honest with ourselves for a moment, we would realize how utterly **helpless** man has been in establishing an enduring and orderly planet for himself and his children.

Every king and president promises change for the better throughout his tenure. So, how is it that inevitably, hostilities, invasion or epidemics always dash the hopes for a utopian world?

Few people realize that the Bible promises a future that will emerge from **dark obscurity**—into a forthcoming brilliant and more than idealistic existence of life forever more—and we can be a part of it!

God's Kingdom and rule will continue to grow, and there will be peace without end for the children of God (Isaiah 9:7). The Bible alone represents the **belief system** of the Creator God.

How profound is "Darkness," and what is it? It is much more than the lack of electromagnetic radiation that stimulates sight and makes things visible. What, for instance was lacking in the Dark Ages? Darkness is much more than a supposed lack of scientific and cultural advancement – it is a lack of **Godly involvement** and direction.

It is the same with “Light.” Light can be too brilliant for the eye, but not the spirit. Paul reveals to us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is **light**!

2Corinthians 4:4 ...The **light** of the **glorious Gospel** of Christ, who is the image of God...

2Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the **light** to shine out of **darkness**, has shined in our hearts, to give the **light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **The Light of God is Brilliant Glory**

What happened is this: God came up with His Plan.

God exists in a brilliant state the Bible calls ‘glory.’ The night before He died Jesus petitioned His Father to restore His **glory** that had been set aside so that He could join us humans in the flesh.

John 17:1 These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; **glorify** thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee...

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world existed.

That glory of God is something that is not only too intense to look upon – its brightness exceeds that of the sun – it is so intensely **brilliant** it is impossible to comprehend with our finite minds.

Paul explained to Timothy that Jesus Christ resided in **light** which was all too intense and dazzling for mere mortal man to endure. It is the habitation of Jesus and the Father right now! Unapproachable light is off-limits to mere mortal man.

1Timothy 6:16 [Jesus Christ] only has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can **approach unto**; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting.

That brilliant glory - God calls Light.

In that same prayer, the night before His crucifixion, Jesus revealed that His life and resurrection had made it possible that we mere men be able to **join** Him and the Father in their glory—and that would be everything—the fulfillment of God’s Plan. Jesus prayed:

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:22 And the **glory** which you gave to me **I have given to them**; that they may be one, even as we are one.

**Darkness to light** then is the story God has given to us of how the nothingness of darkness will ultimately be developed into everything in Christ Jesus. That will ultimately take place in the Millennium:

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the splendorous glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

God is offering us a part in that splendorous glory.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit Everything; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

It is too incredible to grasp! Can you imagine that as Sons of God absolutely everything will be at our disposal to do with as we see fit? We will understand God's Plan perfectly – and be an integral part of it. Nothing will be withheld from us because we will be on the same page that God is on.

Psalms 84:11 The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

God uses the darkness and light symbolism for the purpose of making known His much deeper Plan—His spiritual Kingdom that we need to comprehend more fully.

### **Let there be Light**

Light in the Bible is often a metaphor for life, happiness, righteousness, and understanding – especially spiritual understanding and spiritual wisdom which reflect God's character, will and attributes.

Light is a symbol for righteousness and goodness. God is life-giving spiritual enlightenment – and Jesus Christ is the epitome of that Light.

We are given the concepts of physical darkness and light to express the death and despair of godlessness of "**darkness**," as compared to the life and truth that come with Godliness. Light is one of the most common allegories utilized in the Bible to reveal a **higher spiritual concept**.

The Light of God has far-reaching connotations. This "Light" is the wisdom of God, it is His truth and His law; it represents His perfect way that leads to life everlasting.

Romans 11:33-34 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord?

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because **there is no light** in them.

In the same way that physical light allows us to see our way, spiritual light reveals the way and truth of God. The spiritual light found in the Scriptures is necessary for spiritual life. The light of God's way of life dissipates the darkness of ignorance and falsehood.

When God said, "Let there be light," in Genesis 1:3, our first thought is that He was bringing physical light into existence—electromagnetic radiation in all its wavelengths—the source and conveyor of all energy and matter throughout the universe.

But, that light is only a mere physical type of the **True Spiritual Light** of God that dissipates spiritual darkness (Genesis 1:4). God is Light (1John 1:5).

When God said, "Let there be light," He was stating His elaborate Plan whereby He would bring many divinely enlightened sons and daughters into **His brilliant Light**, the superb glory of His divine Family (Hebrews 2:10, Ephesians 3:15).

God's intent, "Let there be light," was uttered **prior** to the creation of the sun at the center of our solar system (Genesis 1:14-18). There, on day four, God was speaking **physically** of the sun—seemingly the source of all energy and growth—because it too, dissipates the darkness (verse 4).

Let us understand how the Bible is written. God is speaking of light. But He is speaking of the illumination of sunlight shinning forth which is only a type of the much greater **spiritual meaning** in God's scheme of things which is the pure **enlightenment** of God Himself.

When God said, "Let there be light," in Genesis 1:4, He was more importantly alluding to a much more profound eventuality wherein He would inaugurate **spiritual wisdom and life**—even life everlasting. The beloved apostle John makes that clear:

John 1:4-5 In [Jesus] was life; and that life was the **light** of men. And the light shone in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Jesus is that soon coming light that will finally and entirely enlighten the world. We must ask ourselves how we can come out of darkness and enter into His glorious light—there is no more important subject than that.

Jesus is the Light which is the ultimate goal of man. We need to understand what this means. As spirit-born beings in the coming resurrection, this light will become our reality.

### **Analogy of Light**

God chose the analogy of natural light to help us visualize a much more splendid and obscure characteristic of Himself. This comparison of natural light to God's **unapproachable spiritual light** is appreciated by only a small number of converted people at this time.

That is true, because everyone thinks he knows what light is; that is, until you ask them to explain what it is. Light is both beautiful and mysterious to us. Our finite minds cannot begin to grasp what physical light is – let alone the spiritual light in which God dwells. Make no mistake, this world is in darkness, and men love it so. The reason that men prefer darkness is because truth and light expose their wrong ways. God says that the foolish will have misfortune because they put darkness for light (Isaiah 5:20).

That is why paganism is idolatry. It usurps the worship of the True God with the worship of the bright sun. Sun-Day worship violates God's Commandment: "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

As physical flesh and blood individuals we should feel the warmth of the sun on our face and realize that He who made the sun is so much greater than that which He has created. Light and darkness are very different from one another; they are not only opposites.

Light dispels darkness. "It is better to light one candle than to stumble in the dark." But, darkness cannot dispel light. Think about this: You have two rooms side by side – one is lit and the other is dark. When you open the door between the rooms light flows into the dark room. Darkness does not flow into the lighted room. You can project **light**, but you cannot project darkness.

### **Kingdom of Darkness**

When Jesus came, He brought the truth of God into a dark world void of spiritual understanding. The light He ushered in is the wisdom of God that represents His perfect way that leads to life eternal.

Jesus Christ, the **light** of the world, came to dispel darkness. Those are beautiful words, but unless we can understand what they mean they are without profit to us as Christians.

We must allow the Holy Scriptures to define what God means by these words that are much more than merely pious sounding sentiments. The importance of these words cannot be overestimated in that they represent the way to eternal life—the **light of life**.

Put a **red warning flag** in your margin here, brethren: Jesus gave us a most **stern warning** with regard to the path a Christian **must** walk when He said,

Matthew 6:23 If therefore the **light** that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Jesus was telling us of the importance of knowing who the source of true light is. We live in a world of darkness and god-less-ness. This world is Satan's kingdom—the kingdom of darkness (Matthew 12:26). We give thanks to God because of what we will inherit – the **Kingdom of light**:

Colossians 1:12-13 We have qualified to partake in the inheritance of the saints in the **Kingdom of light**. [God the Father] has delivered us from the dominion of **darkness** [rescued and ransomed] and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.

What an incredible thing to be told that as saints we have qualified for the Kingdom of Light – which is the very purpose of God's Plan in the first place. Satan has deceived and blinded the minds of those who do not believe, with the intent of preventing them from having the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine unto them.

Jesus has qualified to replace Satan forever. How can anyone know whether he is truly walking in the light rather than darkness? That's the most important question a person will ever answer for himself.

John tells us that it's all about Godly **relationships**. God does not allow Christians to opt out of their Christian duty to others by simply **watching** while other brethren persist in the darkness of sin, knowing that those in darkness will be excluded from the Kingdom of God (Leviticus 5:1, James 5:20, Galatians 6:1).

We are our brother's keeper. Christians cannot sit idly by and watch others continue in darkness, knowing that those in the darkness of sin are destined for death.

Jesus Christ, the light of the world expels the darkness and imparts His wisdom everywhere—we are to do the same. If we are walking in the light of Jesus, then we will be showing love toward the saints – wherever they are. If we are unwilling to lay our lives down for the sake of the brethren, we walk in darkness, and are not cleansed from all sin.

1John 1:5-7 This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is **light**, and in Him is **no darkness** at all.

1John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1John 1:7 But if we **walk** in the **light**, as He is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another** and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**“we have fellowship one with another”**

That is the part the Church of God brethren are forgetting.

Peter carries this thought to its conclusion by admonishing the brethren to **double-down** in their Godly love for one another.

1Peter 1:22 Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere **love of the brethren**, see that you earnestly **love one another** with a pure heart fervently.

END: Darkness to Light