

Darkness to Light

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 5/14/2016

The Bible, the word of God abounds in metaphors and analogies of physical objects so that we might draw on the deeper meaning of God's spiritual things. There are no words that can adequately convey spiritual concepts.

Jesus spoke of a rock to give us the picture of a sure spiritual foundation. He spoke of water and air to help us perceive the workings of His Holy Spirit.

Today we will be looking at the Biblical picture of **Darkness and Light** – and there is so much there that does not meet the eye. Picture this, because that is the metaphor that is so often incorporated in the Scriptures. As we know, a metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or situation to which it is not literally applicable.

Picture the pitch darkness of a moon-less night, punctuated by the dawning of the brilliant morning sun as it comes up. We will see that Jesus is described just that way. The bright sun is more than our eyes can handle – our visual sight is overwhelmed.

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied of John the Baptist and Jesus:

Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the **dayspring** [the manifestation of Christ the Messiah as the **morning sun**] from on high hath visited us,

Luke 1:79 To **give light** to them that sit in **darkness** and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

This **light** is the wisdom of God, it is His Truth and His law; it represents His perfect way that leads to life eternal. Jesus clearly names and identifies Himself as the bright and **morning star** (Revelation 22:16). Any other claim to be that title by another is summarily a false claim.

Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and **morning star**.

Jesus wants us to use the metaphor to picture the **morning's light** that is so brilliant compared to the night's darkness. Now, for the sake of understanding the Scriptures, let's switch gears from this morning outbreak of physical light and begin applying this word picture to the **spiritual** meaning of God's words. And we find the spiritual application in the words Jesus spoke, the actions that He took and the lessons that He taught.

It is a given that Satan has deceived the whole world casting mankind into that pitch darkness: (Revelation 12:9) And for mankind it is only getting worse – man as a whole knows less and less of God every day. As we find ourselves at the beginning of mankind's darkest days it is proper and fitting that we remember God's intent that we not walk in darkness.

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

Isn't it fantastic how one verse can say so very much – it's been described as an "economy of words" – meaning there is so much packed into one verse? Following God's Holy Day series, we've just completed the Days of Unleavened Bread. Unleavened Bread pictured **coming out of sin** – but more than that – the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictured our **putting on Jesus Christ**.

And so now, we are to be putting on Jesus Christ – not for a week – not for a year – but for the rest of our lives – and forever more. Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: (Ephesians 4:13)

And so we are told how to begin going about becoming just like Jesus – we shall **not walk in darkness**, but shall have the **light of life**.

In America and the British Commonwealth nations we have been the recipients of the greatest blessings God has ever bestowed on a people. We were given ample opportunity to live according to God's principles, morality, and values, but we have chosen to be a lawless people.

We have chosen darkness over light.

It is only fitting and just that God give us the leaders that will bring about our ultimate demise in short order. Incredibly, at the same time that modern Israel is being plunged into darkness, God is calling a people out of this deceived world of madness into His glorious light.

Darkness and Light are different: "It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark." The properties of light and darkness cannot be compared.

Darkness dissipates. Light permeates. Light finds its way into every nook and cranny. You cannot project darkness like you can light. The word of God permeates. It will finally permeate this entire earth one day – not yet, but one day all darkness will be eradicated.

The light of God's Truth dissipates the darkness of ignorance and falsehood.

What happens when a room is totally dark and you add light? The darkness disappears. What happens when there is a light in the room and you add darkness? The darkness again disappears! Darkness cannot stand before light. Deception cannot stand before the truth!

How dark is darkness? When I was in High School we went on a very interesting field trip that I'll never forget. We got to go down into an operational Louisiana salt mine – 840 feet down below the surface. There were huge caverns cut out of solid rock-salt. Our guide asked us, "Have you ever been in the dark?" Silly question I thought. But when they turned off the lights in that salt-mine – I entered the world of the blind. Never had I seen it so black. Up and down, - right and left – lost their meanings. Not only could I not see my hands in front of my face – it was almost like I did not have hands at all. It was so very strange.

Isn't it interesting that light is so vital – that one of the plagues that God sent on the Egyptians was a darkness – void of all light.

Exodus 10:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be **darkness** over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may **be felt**.

It was like a cold, thick, black blanket of blatant darkness.

I thought it remarkable when one of our early astronauts commented on how **dark** outer space was. He said, "Until now, I never realized just how black space is!" Perhaps the astronaut would have expected that extreme darkness had he understood the meaning of Jesus words in Matthew 8:12 – where Jesus described the spiritual darkness of those who were not in God's Kingdom – as **outer** darkness - **blackness** of darkness forever (Jude 13).

Through His Prophet Daniel, God foretold how there would be a people who believed and submitted to His sovereign rule over their lives. Daniel spoke of a future resurrection in which the obedient saints, who had overcome this world's darkness, would glisten as the stars of heaven:

Daniel 12:3 They that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.

The apostle Paul comes back later and "fleshes out," he elaborates on this statement of Daniel's. Paul needed to explain that all those stars will not be exactly the same.

In the resurrection, some saints will **twinkle**, twinkle little star – and others will stand out as bright beacons in the heavens. When we look out at the sky on a dark night – there is a difference in the

brightness of the different stars. Some can barely be seen – they are just a flicker, while others really shine forth above the others in their brightness.

2Corinthians 5:21 For [God the Father] hath made [Jesus] to be sin for us [on the cross], who knew no sin; that we **might be made the righteousness** of God in Him.

Wow! That is jumping to the end of the story – we are getting ahead of ourselves here – imagine we **might be made the righteousness** of God.

That is too much to handle – it is like opening the blinds in the morning and getting hit in the face with more sunlight than we can handle.

As Paul expounds on Daniel’s words, “the righteous saints shall shine as the stars forever” – he notes that some resurrected saints will shine more brightly than others.

1Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial [stars in the heaven] bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

Paul is saying that just like on earth there are those who are recognized as being important people and there are others who are not as notable... In the Kingdom, the resurrected saints will have been raised to various states of grandeur – having differing responsibilities – as Jesus said in Luke 19 – some over five cities – and some over ten cities.

1Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differs from another star in [brightness].

Paul is speaking of the resurrected saints being given greater or lesser positions of authority and rule in the Kingdom of God.

I thought it humorous – but Paul used the word **twinkle** in:

1Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the **twinkling** of an eye....,

A persistent theme throughout the Bible is premise that mankind is on the journey from darkness to light. Paul's specific commission from God was:

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from **darkness to light**, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

And, as we saw in Daniel, “turn them from **darkness to light**,” applies to a lot of us, because they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever.

I like to **highlight** these strong themes that run throughout the Bible – because it is God who is placing the emphasis where it belongs.

On the wrong side of the scale is the eternal darkness of death, while the ultimate goal of the plan of God is for mankind to attain to its vital and glorious destiny of becoming sons and daughters of God in His eternal Kingdom. That is the purpose for which man was created.

There is a rich spiritual intent to this language that extends far above the brightness of the sun. The analogy indicates the contrast between the unseen greater things of God, and the empty void of Godlessness is vast.

God’s uses this light and darkness symbolism for the purpose of making known His much deeper Plan—that of His spiritual Kingdom that He desires we fully embrace. And John describes Jesus as being as brilliant as the sun itself in Revelation 1:13-16.

God is spiritual radiant light. Light is used to symbolize God, and His wisdom, faith and holiness, among many of His other attributes.

“This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)

As Christians, let’s ask ourselves where we are on that sliding scale between darkness and light. It is a most serious question.

The light of God is a spiritual concept that has far-reaching connotations. The Biblical reveals that the contrast between **darkness and light** could not be more extreme.

The vast expanse of this great gulf between the two, relays to us the consequence of the backwardness of ignorance and sin, as distinguished from the ultimate **spiritual enlightenment** of God’s truth. God clearly shows us how to come out of darkness and into His light.

Darkness is the absence of light, but more important than that is what God desires for us to gather from this Biblical metaphor—and that is spiritual darkness is the absence of the truth of God.

The prophet Isaiah helped develop the image that light is associated with goodness and righteousness, while darkness is synonymous with wickedness. Spiritually speaking, darkness and light are antonyms of each other—they are opposed to one another.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put **darkness for light**, and **light for darkness**; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

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**.

Isaiah 8:22 And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be **driven to darkness**.

Psalms 111:10 The reverence of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: **a good understanding** have all they that keep His commandments:

There are no short-cuts to Godly wisdom! People try to get ahead in ungodly ways – and it always sets them back. When we sin – and we all sin – the **Light** of God is dimmed within us – we lose some of our understanding, because understanding comes only from obedience and submission to God and His ways. Unless man’s righteousness becomes the righteousness of Christ, he is doomed to darkness.

Today, we readily comprehend the disparity between phrases such as, “works of darkness” and “let one’s light shine.” Instinctively, we perceive that one is evil, while the other is proper and beneficial.

Isaiah was also inspired by God’s Holy Spirit to write this messianic prophecy about Jesus Christ coming as the **“Great Light.”**

Matthew 4:16 The people that walked in darkness have seen a **great light**: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

As the comparison between the two expands in Scripture, we begin to see how light represents the good characteristics of God – while darkness is the absence of Godliness. God establishes this theme in the first few verses of Genesis.

Our earth was well on the way to completion when it was annihilated in the demonic battle that took place at the time that Satan attempted to seize God’s throne. We are told that everything became *tohu, bohu and coshek*.

In Genesis 1:2 we read, “the earth became without form [*‘tohu’*] and void [*‘bohu’*], and **darkness** [*‘coshek’*] was upon the face of the deep.

In Worldwide we always focused on *‘tohu’* and *‘bohu’* but never touched on *‘coshek’*- the **darkness** that prevailed over all creation as a result of Satan’s rebellion.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:4 And God saw the **light**, that it was good: and God **divided** the **light from the darkness**.

“It was good,” yes, of course it was good because this light represents Jesus Christ. Please understand that this is so much more significant than the physical photons that leave the sun and strike the earth. Right there in verse four we find the specific purpose statement of the entire Bible.

In setting this powerful theme, God without a doubt shows that it is He alone who is the one to separate light from darkness.

For a great deal of man’s history on earth – man has lived in what we refer to as the **dark** ages. Even after Jesus came with His Gospel of the glorious Kingdom of God – most people around the earth never laid eyes on the Bible.

Then came the Gutenberg Bible which led the way to the dissemination of the King James Bible of 1611 into all the world. The word of God began to bring light to a dark world. Everything jumped forward with the speed of light. Because the Bible began to be widely available; Knowledge began to rapidly increase; Understanding led to wisdom; and for some the Gospel brought Godly wisdom; Truth; our awesome transcendent purpose for existing.

Soon, European politics, philosophy, science and communications were radically reoriented during the course of what has come to be known as the “long 18th century” (1685-1815) as part of a movement referred to by its participants as the Age of **Enlightenment**.

You will notice that those dates correspond with the great outpouring of God’s promised blessings on the children of Abraham. God’s word brought **Enlightenment**. So much darkness was dissipated. From darkness to light is the Biblical theme that is driven home to us from Genesis to Revelation.

God is actively separating His people from the darkness of ignorance and sin. Knowing that, we find a vital participation by God included in the theme of ‘darkness to light’—that of God’s direct intervention in **dividing** (Genesis 1:4) His glorious light from the evil darkness.

1Peter 2:9 You [Church brethren] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people possessed by God; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**:

2Peter 1:17 For [Jesus] received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

2Peter 1:18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

2Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto **a light** that shines in a dark place, until the **day dawn**, and the day star [**morning sun**] arise in your hearts:

2Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [tartaroo] and delivered them into **chains of darkness**, to be reserved unto judgment...

We see Satan’s demise:

Jude: 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate [ruling the earth], but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting **chains under darkness** unto the judgment of the great day.

Remember when Satan tried to co-opt this title of “the morning sun” to himself?

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, **son of the morning!** ["day star" or "morning star" or "star of the morning"]

Paul clarifies how Satan wanted the title of being the bright **morning sun** that enlightens the world:

2Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an **angel of light**.

Satan tried to usurp that title for himself – and sadly, for many he has.

God ascribes all the **works of darkness** to Satan.

Ephesians 6:12 We are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the **darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

This world has become filled with an obsession for the dark side – movies, TV, entertainment, music. Witchcraft, walking dead, occult, zombies; and it is ingrained in the elite of Washington DC.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes **darkness**, but **now** are ye light in the Lord: walk as **children of light**.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the **unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather reprove them.

Who are these people that chose the dark side? Saul D. Alinsky dedicated his book, "Rules for Radicals" to Lucifer. He said that he could not wait to get to hell so that he could be a community organizer there as well.

John 1:3 All things were made by Jesus Christ; and without him was not anything made that was made.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the **light of men**.

John 1:5 And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John [the Baptist].

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the **Light**, that all men through him might believe.

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lights every man that cometh into the world.

It is God's Plan that eventually – not yet – all men will come out of this darkened world into His splendid spiritual light.

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

Sin keeps us from comprehending the Truth of God.

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil **hates the light**, neither cometh to the **light**, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth **cometh to the light**, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

1John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the **darkness is past, and the true light now shines**.

Let's understand between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant: Paul explained that Jesus Christ resided in the light which was all too intense and dazzling for mere mortal man to endure, but as spirit-born beings, this light will become **our reality**. This light is the habitation of Jesus right now!

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

Why does Paul say that the **dwelling light of God is unapproachable**? Paul was harkening back to God at Mount Sinai where Moses ascended the mount and God revealed the Ten Commandments.

No one was able to approach the mountain – except Moses. We know how Moses could not look directly on the intense glory of Jesus Christ's brightness and yet live.

Exodus 33:18 And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory.

Exodus 33:19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Exodus 33:20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Exodus 33:21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

Exodus 33:22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

Exodus 33:23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Remember how the brightness of God was so intense that it would have killed the cows and chickens if they were anywhere near Mt. Sinai? God told Moses in:

Exodus 19:12 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:

Exodus 19:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

That light is associated with the radiance of God's glory and when this glory appeared - humans and animals had to keep their distance. That is **how unapproachable God was to Israel**. God's countenance was so brilliant and intense that:

Exodus 34:29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses knew not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

Moses was glowing – the after affect of being in God's light.

Exodus 34:30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the **skin of his face shone**; and they were afraid to come near him.

That incident reminds us of the Transfiguration that Jesus shared with a few of the apostles. "[Jesus'] face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Matthew 17:2).

Things have changed in the New Covenant: Paul explains that our trek is not up on Mt. Sinai like Moses going up.

Hebrews 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

Hebrews 12:19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

Hebrews 12:20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

Hebrews 12:21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Mt Sinai was the **physical** type of the **spiritual** Mt Zion.

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse **not** him that speaks. For if they escaped not who refused him that spoke on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaks from heaven:

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Hebrews 12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Jesus Christ is **no longer unapproachable**:

God through Jesus Christ has made Himself **approachable** and will share with believers His immortality.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us **draw near** [to God] with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

That is coming out of darkness! Now we are able to approach unto God – not as men but as glorified children of God. We have been reconciled to God the Father by Jesus Christ.

The narrative of the Bible is clear: Mankind must come entirely out of darkness and walk in the light.

Isaiah 60:19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an **everlasting light**, and thy God thy glory.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the **Lamb is the light** thereof.

From the fall of man until the fruition of God's plan, the Bible is the story of God's direct involvement in man's quest to come out of the darkness of ignorance and sin, and into the glorious light and liberty of God's radiance.

End: Darkness to Light