

JESUS CHRIST, THE PERPETUAL LIGHT FOR ALL MANKIND

Matthew 4:16 NIV **SLIDE**

*The people living in darkness have seen a great light; **SLIDE** on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

This is speaking of the coming of Jesus into the world – **the Eternal Light** coming into a dark and decaying world ...

Isaiah prophesied it 750 years before it came to pass, speaking of the land of **Zebulun and Naphtali** which was a land of Jews and Gentiles alike.

This is telling us that *Jesus came for the whole world ... for Jews and Gentiles alike.*

There is only one way to salvation ... and that is through Jesus Christ, The Light for ALL mankind.

Isaiah 9:1-2 Berean Study Bible

*Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those in distress. In the past He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future He will honour the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of **the nations**.*

²*The **people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.***

John tells us that when Jesus was born, for The First Time Ever, **Eternal Light came into the world ... LIGHT NEVER SEEN BEFORE.**

John 3:19

... Light has come into the world ...

John 9:5 NIV

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

John calls Jesus **The True light that came into the world.** (John 1:9)

John 12:46 NIV **SLIDE**

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

**JESUS BROUGHT THE ILLUMINATION OF SPIRITUAL REALITY.
AND SINCE THEN, PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO SEE SPIRITUAL
REALITY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WE CAN SEE INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION.**

**WITHOUT LIGHT ... NO ONE CAN SEE REALITY
EVERYTHING IS AN ILLUSION.**

Jesus said, unless a man is Born-again he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.

**BEFORE JESUS CAME, PEOPLE ONLY HAD REVELATION ... BUT
NOW THERE WAS ILLUMINATION ... THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE
SPIRITUAL REALITY ...**

**JESUS BROUGHT THE REALITY OF TRUE SPIRITUAL LIFE ...
NOW, IT CAN BE SEEN.**

THERE ARE 3 THINGS THAT THIS SPIRITUAL LIGHT DOES

1. THIS LIGHT BRINGS JOY ...
2. THIS LIGHT BREATHES HOPE ...
3. THIS LIGHT BREEDS LIFE ...

SLIDE

1. THIS LIGHT BRINGS JOY ...

**DO WE GET THE MAGNITUDE OF SUCH A MAGNIFICENT THING ...
SEEING LIGHT NEVER SEEN BEFORE?**

When I worked in advertising, I had a client who was an agent for Colourview lenses.

These were glasses that enabled colour-blind people to actually see colour for the first time in their life ... And I had the privilege of filming a man who tried them on for the first time. He was about 40 years of age and had never experienced seeing colour before.

HE SAW COLOUR FOR THE FIRST TIME.

*This man's reaction was amazing. He was stunned. Tears came to his eyes ... expressions such as Wow! Wow! Wow!
He just kept on looking around at everything ... taking in the colour he saw for the first time ...*

SLIDES x 2 These are actual photos of men seeing colour for the first time. Look at The Joy in their faces.

So it is when God's light illuminates the faces of people who have only known darkness their whole life ...

THEY SEE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL ... SOMETHING GOOD
THE COLOURS OF ETERNITY APPEAR BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES.

Joy wells up inside them because of this new experience ... this positive experience ...

People are stunned and lives are changed.

In that moment ... that man I was filming forgot about his mortgage ... his marital issues ... his financial hardships ... his sore leg.

HE WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE JOY OF SEEING COLOUR FOR THE FIRST TIME

John 16:21 NIV

A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

JOY INVADES SORROW. JOY MANIFESTS IN THE DARK VALLEY ... THE VALLEY OF CONFUSION ... THE VALLEY OF SUFFERING.

NB: IT DOESN'T TAKE THE PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR VALLEY ...

IT COMES INTO THAT VALLEY

- This light opens people's eyes to the spiritual dimension ... like an alternate reality ... but the real, true reality
- This light changes our whole perspective of suffering and struggle ... we now see *through it ... see past it ... beyond it.*
We see in another dimension. We see spiritually ...

WE SEE THE COLOURS OF ETERNAL LIFE

WE SEE ETERNAL TRUTH ABOVE TEMPORAL FACT ...

LET YOUR EYES SEE HIS TRUTH BEYOND TEMPORAL FACT

SLIDE

2. THIS LIGHT BREATHES HOPE - THE LIGHT OF HOPE

Peter our brother who is in hospital at present, having had several operations for cancer, told me the other day -

The surgeon said to him, 'Peter we see people all the time who have nothing to turn to, but you have something to turn to.'

WITHOUT LIGHT THERE IS NO HOPE

The darker these times in which we live get ... the more 'HOPELESS' people become.

PEOPLE ARE LOSING ALL HOPE ...

IN THE DARKNESS YOU CANNOT SEE ANY FUTURE ...

Creatures of The Dark are '**SHORT-SIGHTED**'.

THERE IS NO PROMISE OF HOPE ... NO PROMISED FUTURE.

PEOPLE EXIST FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT.

BUT HERE IN THE DARKNESS SOME PEOPLE HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT ...

- **A LIGHT GREATER THAN THE DARKNESS ...**
- **A LIGHT ENFUSED WITH CERTAIN HOPE.**
- **A LIGHT THAT PIERCES THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF ALL NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES ... OF ALL HOPELESS SITUATIONS ...**
- **AN ETERNAL LIGHT THAT CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED BY DARKNESS ...**
A LIGHT WHICH BRINGS TRUE HOPE ...
LASTING HOPE ...
SURE HOPE

SLIDE

- **A LIGHT LIKE THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY ...**
FULL OF POTENTIAL ...
FULL OF PROMISE ...
FULL OF NEW HOPES ...
A CERTAIN FUTURE.

After a long, long night of darkness where you cannot see ... where you are all muddled in confusion without any expectation or hope ... where fear echoes around in your head ...

Suddenly there is a brilliant light ... The dawning of a new day.

NB: THIS IS NOT WISHFUL THINKING BUT A CERTAIN FUTURE ...

A SURE PROMISE THAT YOU KNOW WILL COME TO PASS.

LIGHT TELLS US ... YOUR FUTURE IS CERTAIN

AND YOUR FUTURE IS GLORIOUS ...

YOUR FUTURE IS GOOD.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future.**”*

LIGHT ENABLES US TO SEE THE HORIZON ...

TO SEE PAST OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES & SITUATIONS ...

TO SEE AFAR OFF ...

A NEW POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE & THIS WORLD,
REGARDLESS OF OUR PRESENT SITUATION.

Martin Luther King Jr. in his last speech in 1968 describes this eternal hope –

‘I’ve seen the promised land ... and so I’m happy, tonight ... mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord ...’

CHRISTIANS ARE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN HOPE ... THAT WALK IN HOPE ... **BECAUSE THEY’VE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT** ... THE PROMISE OF NEW HOPE

There is no need for pessimism no matter how bleak things

become ...

THERE IS AN ETERNAL HOPE ... THE PROMISE OF THINGS TO COME ...

Believer’s live in expectation

SLIDE

3. THIS LIGHT BREEDS LIFE ...

Charles Wesley wrote in ‘Hark The Herald Angels Sing’

“Light & Life to all He Brings ... risen with healing in His wings ...”

John 8:12 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Jesus spoke to the people and said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have **the light of life.**”*

John 1:4

*In him was life, and **that life was the light** of all mankind.*

Illumination is one thing ... It is seeing the light ... but there’s more!
There’s also regeneration when this Light enters your heart.

JESUS SAID, ‘COME TO THE LIGHT’

Not only See The Light but, 'Come to The Light'

John 3:20 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*For everyone practicing evil hates the Light and does not **come to the Light**, so that his works may not be exposed.*

**PEOPLE LIKE TO WALLOW IN THEIR NEGATIVES ...
PEOPLE ARE THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES ...
PEOPLE FEEL AT HOME IN DARKNESS ... IN THEIR SIN &
SICKNESS ... LIKE A BAT LIKES THE NIGHT...**

The other day, a Lady poured out her heart to me ... tears in her eyes. She said she is looking forward to dying.

I said to her, 'You can't fight the dark. You don't have the power in you to overcome the darkness, but God gives you light and His light in Jesus Christ dispels all darkness. You need to have the light and live in the light!'

I said, 'Log onto our messages. They are full of LIGHT WHICH WILL DIMINISH THE DARKNESS IN YOUR MIND.'

I also invited her to the Sunday meeting but she declined as she was having a party ... Possibly a pity-party.

MANY LIKE TO WALLOW IN THEIR DARKNESS & WILL NOT COME TO THE LIGHT

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BRING YOU OUT OF DARKNESS IS THE LIGHT OF HIS LIFE ...

COME TO IT NOW ...

Ephesians 5:13 Berean Study Bible

But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself.

COME TO THE LIGHT

BE THE LIGHT

SHINE THE LIGHT

THE LIGHT WILL BRING LIFE TO YOU

LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST