



Light Enters the Dark World
From Sermon 12.5.21

Read *Isaiah 9:1-2 & 6-7*

Review from Sunday's Sermon: Christmas has arrived. One of the great joys of the season is the beauty of all the Christmas lights. They also contain a great object lesson for the believer. Repeatedly, God and light are connected in the Scriptures. Every time He reveals Himself, it's in the form of light. It is His very essence. Conversely, everything about fallen man and a sin-cursed universe is darkness. The Christmas story is the grand account in redemptive history of light entering a dark world.

1. Read *Genesis 1:1-5*. On Sunday, what unique features about this 1st light were pointed out? Several answers. But, include: It was not the sun. That comes on day 4. This was a divine light of God's physical presence in the created universe. This light is no longer with us. It was removed at Adam's fall. It is restored in the eternal Kingdom. See *Revelation 21:23*

2. From the moment of Adam's fall onward, how would God's Glory be experienced by man? Various answers. Always a rare occurrence = not common. Only in glimpses and never in its fullness. To protect the sinful, physical person, God's glory must be veiled. Can you think of any examples?

2a. How is Christmas an example of God's gracious gift of Light to man, yet still requiring the veil? Jesus came to commune and dwell with man. But, He was veiled in flesh. The few Apostles beheld His natural state later at the Transfiguration.

3. In physical science, is light waves or particles? Why does that matter? Both! Logically and scientifically, an impossibility. But, it's reality. It's the only thing that is/can be both. [light waves...spectrum, prism, & colors. It can be divided. At the same time, light is particles. They can be harnessed, as in solar panels. These must travel in a straight line unless/until diverted by outside forces and cannot be waves.]

3a. Correlation: is Jesus God or Man? Why does that matter? Both! Logically and physiologically, an impossibility. And, it's not 50-50. He's 100% & 100%. Also, the only way to accomplish all of His will. = being our second Adam (man) and conquering the grave (God).

4. What reason does the Bible state for man's hatred of the Light? It exposes his sin. See *John 3:19-21*
[The Irony: a world seeking "enlightenment, spirituality, answers in nature and science, & wholeness. Yet, they hate the one and only true Light.]

5. Read, again, Jesus' "I AM" statement of *John 8:12*. What is He saying about Himself? His is a nature of Exclusivity = there is no other light. In Him alone is authentic enlightenment. He overcomes the darkness and offers the same to those who would put their faith in Him. He is the only victory over the king of darkness. See also *Ephesians 6:12*

Exercise: How I'll view the Christmas lights this season a little differently.