

The True Light Came into the World

(John 1)



*I have come into the world as light,
so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*
(John 12:46 ESV)

1. **ETERNAL GOD: The Logos—the eternal Word—is our Creator God, 1:1-3.**

- (John 1:1–3 ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

2. **ALL-POWERFUL: The eternal Word is, and always has been, life and the overcoming light of this world from the beginning of creation, 1:4-5.**

- (John 1:4–5 ESV) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- (1 John 2:8 ESV) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

3. **BEFORE AND AFTER: The eternal Word was light before the world began and will be the light of heaven.**

- (Revelation 21:22–23 ESV) And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 **And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.**
- (Revelation 22:5 ESV) And night will be no more. **They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.**

4. **THE SENT WITNESS: A man whose name was John was sent from God to give witness about the light, 1:6-8.**

This is speaking of John the Baptist—the forerunner prophet.

- (John 1:6–8 ESV) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 **He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light**, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but **came to bear witness about the light**.
- A. He was sent with the purpose giving his **testimony** about the light.

- B. This testimony would include **identifying** the light so that all might **believe** through him.

5. **FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT: John was giving witness to the fact that the True Light—the eternal Word—which has been the source of light and life on Earth since the beginning of creation was now coming into the world as a human, 1:9.**

- (John 1:9 ESV) The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

The “other” John—the apostle and author of the gospel and 1, 2, 3 John—also gave testimony about the light. He said, “We heard him, we saw him, we touched him. The eternal Word—the Logos—was made known in human form, and we give our testimony to this fact.”

- (1 John 1:1–2 ESV) 1 That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which **we looked upon and have touched with our hands**, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and **we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.

- A. Christ’s eternal **nature** is again affirmed—“that which was from the beginning.” Compare John 1:1 and 1 John 1:1.

- B. Christ’s **presence** as the life and light of God in human form was verified by the testimony of the Apostle John and the other apostles.

- i. They **heard** him speak. They sat under his teaching.
- ii. They literally **saw** him. Experienced life with him on Earth as fellow humans.
- iii. They **“looked upon”** his life; possibly meaning they studied him as they followed him.
- iv. They **touched** him. Not metaphorically, not figuratively. They actually, physically touched him **with their hands**.

6. **OBLIVIOUS:** The True Light (the eternal Word) which has been the source of light and life on Earth since the beginning of creation came into the world he created **but the world he created did not know him, 1:10.**

- (John 1:10 ESV) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

Just some sad irony in view of our text—“but the world he created did not know him”—as one of the men closest to him denies him in those words—**“Woman, I do not know him.”**

- (Luke 22:56–62 ESV) Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” 57 But he denied it, saying, **“Woman, I do not know him.”** 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” 60 But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. **And Peter remembered** the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” 62 **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

7. **REBELLIOUS:** The True Light came to his own people—those who worshiped the Creator God and had been trained in his ways and who had been waiting for the Messiah light—but they did not receive him, 1:11.

- (John 1:11 ESV) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

8. **GOD GAVE:** But to all who did receive the True Light, he gave the right to become the children of God, 1:12.

- (John 1:12 ESV) But to **all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**



“... the world he created did not know him ...”

9. **BORN OF GOD:** Those who received the True Light became children of God by being born of God, 1:13.

- (John 1:13 ESV) **Who were born,** not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God.**

10. **JESUS CHRIST:** The eternal Word is identified as Jesus Christ, 1:14-18.

- (John 1:14–18 ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, **“This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”**) 16 **For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.** 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

“ ... even his own people did not receive him ...”



**YOU ARE THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD**



**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
BEFORE OTHERS**

You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
(Matthew 5:14–16 ESV)

HOW DO WE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE?

1. We must walk in the light, 1 John 1:5-10.

- (1 John 1:5–10 ESV) **This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Christ's **message** was proclaimed to them—that God is light. From that message we learn these things about walking in light and not in darkness.

- A. Walking in the light we will have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- B. Walking in the light we will sin and the blood of Jesus will cleanse us from all of our sin.
- C. Walking in the light we will acknowledge our sin and confess our sin to God.

2. We must love the light, John 3:19-21.

- (John 3:19–21 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

The person who loves light over darkness does what is true—obeys—and does not fear being exposed. **In fact this person rejoices knowing that anything he or she does will be shown to be the work of God.**