

CHRISTMAS: JESUS THE TRUE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

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INTRODUCTION

Christmas is an amazing time of the year, and we are thankful for this season. We Christians ought to enjoy Christmas more than anyone because Christmas is a time set aside to celebrate the birth of Christ — Isaiah 9:6—7. Christmas is the dawn of light for the world; in saying that, we are of course referring to Jesus as the true Light of the world. It is a truth often taken for granted in our circles, yet there have been those who have doubted.

Christ was born into a world of spiritual darkness. In Israel, the light of prophetic utterance had not shone for four hundred years. The Jewish religious leaders had become either self-righteous or political. John the Baptist began to witness about Jesus Christ as the true Light. Apostle John, in his gospel, the first chapter, gives us a description of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

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

Scripture Focus: John 1:1–19, Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7, Matthew 4:12–16

STUDY OUTLINE

- Jesus is Alpha and Omega
- Jesus is Life and Light
- Jesus is the True Light

1. JESUS IS ALPHA AND OMEGA – John 1:1–2; Revelation 1:8

Apostle John declares that Jesus is Alpha and Omega. Jesus is the beginning and the end. Jesus did not have His beginning in a manger in a stable near Bethlehem. Jesus became God in human flesh. Jesus took on a real human body – all man, yet all God. Jesus is the only true God-Man who ever lived.

John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Former missionary to India, E. Stanley Jones, tried to think of a way to tell people in India about the love of God in Jesus. He said, suppose a farmer was ploughing a field and he came upon an anthill teeming with ants. How could the farmer warn the ants to get out of the way of the plough? There is only one way to communicate to the ants – to become an ant and give them a warning in their own language. All who would listen would be saved. In Jesus, God stepped out of heaven to communicate His plan of salvation. Jesus became one of us to communicate in our language and tell us of God's love – John 3:16–18.

Jesus is Alpha and Omega, the eternal Son of God. For you to know Jesus is for you to know God. Jesus claimed that He and God the Father were equal – John 10:37–38.

On a spiritual, supernatural level, God the Father is Creator, God the Son is Saviour, and God the Holy Spirit is Administrator of God's graces and gifts.

2. JESUS IS LIFE AND LIGHT – John 1:5; 8:12; 14:6

Apostle John declared that Jesus is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end; John also declared that Jesus is Life and Light. Ever since the brightness of heaven flooded the hills of Bethlehem, and the far-off twinkling star guided Eastern wise men to the newborn King, Christ has been the Light of the world, and we have celebrated Christmas with colourful lights.

John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." Another translation says, "The darkness has not overcome it."

At the time of Christ's birth, the Roman government was experiencing unprecedented prosperity, but the Roman officials were living in moral darkness. In Roman society at that time, working at common labour was a disgrace.

The middle class had disappeared.

In the empire, there were six million slaves. One Emperor, Vitellius, in less than eight months, spent several million dollars on special feasts.

Family life for the Romans had once been a sacred thing, and for 520 years, divorce was not a part of family life. But in the time of Christ, a person of prestige was known

by the number of divorces the person had, Children were regarded as a burden, and their education was handed over to slaves. The practice of abortion was a general custom. One of the historians of that time, Tacitus, said of Rome: "To corrupt and be corrupted is the spirit of the times."

When we look at the world 2,000 years later, there are many similarities. We need the light of Christ to shine forth in our darkness and show us the way.

The angel spoke to Joseph in Matthew 1:21 and told him the purpose of the birth and advent of Jesus: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

Jesus came to give life—eternal life—to all who will believe and follow Him.

John the Baptist said he was called by God to testify and prepare for the coming of Jesus the Messiah. John said he was not the light, but his calling was to testify that the Light had come.

All of us have a similar calling, as Christ-followers, to witness and testify that Jesus is the Life and Light.

Jesus challenged His disciples—and each of us—not to hide the light of the Good News of Jesus under cover. Don't be a secret Christian; let the light of Christ shine through your life.

Remember: light shines gently; to shine too hot can burn and bring discomfort. Shine forth with good sense and timing. To shine forth too forcefully is to become abrasive and obnoxious.

Shine forth with kindness, gentleness, compassion, and love. Then you will be life-giving.

The purpose of light is to shine. Not to shine is to deny that Jesus is the Christ.

"The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness will never put it out or overcome it." – John 1:5

3. JESUS IS THE TRUE LIGHT – John 1:9; Isaiah 9:1–2; John 9:5

The Scriptures teach that Jesus is the true Light that shines to every person. In some form or the other, the spiritual light of Jesus shines truth to every person who reaches the age of accountability—the age when a person realises the difference between right or wrong (choices).

Jesus is the true Light that all the 6.5 billion plus people in the world need.

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

If there is true light, there is also false light.

Satan is a counterfeit light (John 3:19–20).

God creates every person with the potential to embrace spiritual light and truth.

Spiritual light is there in every heart, but when you make the wilful choice to disobey and sin, the light flickers.

As a person rejects God's truth, the light grows dimmer, and finally the person's soul becomes dark and void.

When a person allows the light of Christ to shine in his or her heart, the darkness of Satan and his fallen angels of doubt are cast out.

The prophet Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah who could give life and light:

"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.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders.

And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:2,6

Isaiah speaks to the people living in our neighbourhood, community, and walking in darkness.

The people have seen a great light. On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

As Christ-followers, you are shining forth the light of Jesus through your life and witness.

Wherever you work or go, you are punching holes in darkness.

As more people become Christ-followers, the greater the light will become.

Jesus is the hope of all living in the world. Darkness will never overcome the light of Christ.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...
For unto us a Son is given."

Sin, like a virus, has caused a breakdown and disconnect in all our lives.

A Son is born and a child is given—a spiritual Redeemer, a virus cleanser.

Jesus came to provide the way, the truth, and the life so we can know God personally and begin to walk in the light of God's truth.

Jesus said,

"I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12

CONCLUSION

Jesus is the true Light of Christians.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega.

Jesus is Life and Light.

Jesus is the true Light that gives light to every person.

Have you made a decision that has caused the light of Jesus to flicker and go dim in your life?

Christmas welcomes Jesus to shine His truth into your heart and life.

Make the decision to become a Christ-follower.

About the Author

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