

GOD IS LIGHT

(This paper was prepared by Brother George B. Wilmott.)

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

It is our privilege to share this message that John received: “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” In the epistle of James (1:17), God is styled “the Father of lights”. The Father of lights is from “everlasting to everlasting”. (Psa. 90:1) Our heavenly Father is a God of justice, wisdom, love, and power. His creative power was first exercised in bringing his Son (the Logos) into existence. In the book of Proverbs (8:22, 23) we read: “The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.” “All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” (John 1:3) Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 8:6 that there is one supreme “God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”

In the remote past God used his creative power (of the Father and by the Son) to bring the planet earth into existence. “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” (Gen. 1:1, 2) Just how long it was from the time the earth was brought into existence until the creative week began we are not told. However, we would reason that it was a long period of time. In due time the Father of lights and his Son started the work of preparing this earth for plant, animal, and human life. The work of changing it from darkness into a paradise began. This work was to take one week. Of course Jehovah’s days are much longer than our twenty-four hour days. “A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.” (Psa. 90:4) Bible chronology, reliable history, and prophecy give us the length of the seventh day of this creative week. This rest day of God is a period of 7000 years; this is a period of seven 1000 year days. Upon learning the length of this seventh day, we assume that the other days were the same length. The entire creative week, then, when finished will be a period of 49,000 years.

At the beginning of this creative week on the first day, the Father of lights appropriately said, “Let there be light: and there was light.” (Gen. 1:3) It would seem that divine power brought down some of the heavy rings of aqueous and mineral matter during this first day. Thus the light and darkness, day and night, became distinguishable. The light of this first day became more distinct as each creative day passed. By the fourth day the sun, moon, and stars could be seen, but it was not until the time of Noah on the seventh day that the last ring of water had fallen to earth.

Toward the close of the sixth creative day, the God of light and his Son created the first man, Adam. Approximately two years later the virus of sin entered and death resulted. Over two thousand years later because of Abraham's faith, a promise was made: "In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore ... And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen. 22:17, 18) Still later (over 4000 years from Adam's disobedience) the Father of lights sent "the true Light" into the world. If the demands of justice against the fallen race were to be met, it would require a perfect life for the perfect Adam before he sinned. None of Adam's race could give to God a ransom for Adam. See Psalm 49:7. The life principle of the Son was transferred by the Father, and Mary supplied the human organism.

The true Light came to his own (natural Israel), but his own received him not. See John 1:11. He was sent to Israel because they were under a double condemnation. They were condemned in Adam and additionally because they could not keep the Law Covenant. Our Lord gave himself a "ransom for all" (1 Tim. 2:6) and in due time will enlighten "every man that cometh into the world". (John 1:9) This will include not only those living at the time the earthly phase of the kingdom is established (beginning with Israel), but also in due time all who are in their graves will come forth and will be taught the truth. Those who refuse to obey after at least 100 years will be cut off from amongst the people.

Meanwhile, however, before the enlightenment of mankind, the Father of lights is taking out a people for Christ's name. The Father of lights first extended this opportunity to become children of light to natural Israel. Those who received our Lord were given the privilege to become sons of God. In 36 A.D. this privilege was extended to the Gentiles because of the unbelief of Israel as a whole. To those who repent of sin, accept the true Light, and make a full consecration, "the Father of lights ... of his own will" begets "with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures". (James 1:17, 18) These become "children of light". These have been called "out of darkness into his marvelous light". (1 Pet. 2:9) These are exhorted to "walk as children of light". (Eph. 5:8)

In 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6, Paul says of these: "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord (Peter identifies as being 1000 years long - 2 Pet. 3:8) so cometh as a thief in the night ... But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness, therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." The children of the Father of lights have been informed concerning the times and the seasons. We are exhorted not to fall asleep again after being enlightened concerning the times and the seasons, but to watch and be sober. Jesus said, "If therefore the light that is in thee become darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matt. 6:23

In order to abide in the light it is also necessary to love our brethren. See 1 John 2:10. Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world ... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14, 16) We are not only to love the brethren after they consecrate, but we are to also be interested in those who show a love for the Lord who may eventually become our brethren.

“If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Cor. 4:3, 4) In 1874 our Lord entered the “strong man’s house”. In due time Satan will be bound, and then during the remainder of our Lord’s presence all enemies will be destroyed. See Mark 3:27. The last enemy to be destroyed is death (Adamic death). (1 Cor. 15:26) Since 1874 our Lord is bringing “to light the hidden things of darkness.” 1 Cor. 4:5

In addition to saying, “Ye are the light of the world”, Jesus also said, “Ye are the salt of the earth.” (Matt. 5:13) Soon the light and the salt will be removed from this earth. For a short time it will be a corrupt and dark place here on earth. If those days were not cut short, no flesh would be saved. However, divine intervention (the Father of lights by the elect) will stop the trouble before all flesh is destroyed. Matt. 24:22

Over 90 years ago a watchman began to announce that the Millennial morning had come. Then would come a night time of trouble. See Isaiah 21:12. Eventually the “Sun of Righteousness” (Mal. 4:2) and his body members as a part of the sun of righteousness (Matt. 13:43) will stop the time of trouble. Darkness still covers the “earth, and gross darkness the people”. In due time “the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising”. (Isa. 60:2, 3) This applies to spiritual Israel, the Sun of Righteousness, and also to its earthly representatives, fleshly Israel restored to favor. In Matthew 24:27 our Lord likened his thousand year presence to the bright shining (the sun) which shines from the east to the west. All mankind including those who have died will in due time be enlightened with an accurate knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4) Throughout the 1000 year day it is neither completely light nor completely dark. However, at the close of the thousand year presence of our Lord, it will then be completely light (perfect). Zech. 14:6, 7

It is interesting to note that at the beginning of earth’s creative week, God said, “Let there be light.” At the end of the week (49,000 years later), it will be light! The earth will then be a paradise world wide. Mankind will have benefited by the permission of evil. Because of the ransom sacrifice all the willing and obedient will have been restored to perfection.

The “little season“ following the Millennial age will witness the complete separation of the “sheep” from the “goats”. The ones who follow after Satan will with him be

destroyed in the second death. (Rev. 20:9) Those with the sheep like disposition will become kings over the earth. See Matthew 25:34. These will enjoy the endless ages of eternity—ages of blessedness, happiness, and perfection.

The Father of lights, our Lord (the true Light), and the “little flock” (children of light) throughout eternity will enjoy sweet association together. All other beings, spirit and human, will also enjoy complete harmony with the divine family and with each other. What a glorious prospect! May we continue to proclaim this message: “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”