

A Light Shining in Darkness

In the Bible, the coming of the Messiah is often associated with light. Let's explore the promises this light brings to see what this theme means for our understanding of Christ, what it means that God calls us "a light to the nations," and what it means for how we live as people of the light while we wait for Jesus Christ's second coming.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Why is light attractive? Why is darkness scary?
- If someone asked you what the significance of light is in the Bible, how would you respond?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [A Light Shining in Darkness](#)

READ [Isaiah 9:2-3](#), [Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20](#), [Matthew 5:14-16](#), [Revelation 22:1-5](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee explore some of the Old Testament prophecies about light and point to the events of Jesus' life that fulfill those prophecies. What does it show you about God that he gave us these promises and fulfilled them?
- Consider how you've chosen to live your daily life. How are you reflecting the light of Christ? How might your witness lead others to glorify God?
- In segment 3, Scott discusses two ways we let the light of Christ shine through us. The second way, using our light to expose someone's need for Christ, is often trickier for us than the first way, being a good example or bringing Christ's light to people's despair. Why? How can we walk that fine line of exposing someone's need for Christ's light without judging or shaming them?
- Who do you know that embodies the light of Christ well in their words and actions? Identify a few examples of how you've seen Christ's light shining through their life. How might you similarly shine the light of Christ this week?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Luke 2:1-20](#), [Matthew 2:1-12](#), [Luke 1:76-79](#), [John 1:1-9](#), [John 9:39-41](#), [John 3:19-21](#), [John 8:12](#), [Ephesians 5:8-16](#), [Isaiah 49:6](#), [Acts 13:47](#)

CONCLUSION

Begin a time of reflection with this prayer from Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer by Kari Kristina Reeves (p. 119).

What is it in my heart?

I need your assistance.

*Give me your light.
Give me your Spirit.*

Help me, please,

For your name.

*Help me, my Father,
Because you are my friend.*

Amen.

Next, spend time in continued prayer and reflection on these questions:

- Is there any part of your life that you're trying not to expose to the light or willfully keeping hidden?
- Where do you see a need for the light of Christ around you? How can you meet that need?

Pray about the answers the Holy Spirit rouses in your heart and mind, then close your time of prayer and reflection with this prayer, also from Canyon Road (p. 84):

Be my Light, God, in this darkness.

Shine brightly here, for your name's sake.

Amen.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/a-light-shining-in-darkness>

Printed on November 21, 2024