

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Light Shining in the Darkness

John 1: 1-13

One of the most beautiful and poetic portions of Scripture is found in John's Gospel, chapter 1, verses 1-18. Many scholars are convinced that this was an early Christian hymn already being used in the early church. It is so "Johannine" that I am convinced it originated with John and then perhaps became a hymn. I memorized much of this passage as a student of New Testament Greek and, in the original language of its origin and John's simple style, it is beautifully lyrical. Do not be mistaken however, the style may be simple, but the theology it unveils is equally among the most profound anywhere in the Bible and reminds us of Genesis 1 in the first verses.

I. The Word: Creator God, Equal to Father God (vv. 1-3)

- A. The Word...what is the *WORD*?
- B. Face to Face with the Father
- C. Also eternally God
- D. The Creator of *ALL* things

II. Life and Light (vv. 4-8)

- A. His life is the light of all people
 - 1. He was likely the original light from which all life sprang (Genesis 1:2)
 - 2. His Word is a light to our path (Psalm 119:105)
 - 3. He is the light of the world (John 8:12)
 - 4. Christ Jesus. . . brought life and immortality to light (I Timothy 1:10)
- B. The best that can said about unbelievers is that they are blind and on life support (God's sustaining grace); only true followers of Jesus Christ have life and illumination in themselves

III. Light Shining in the Darkness (vv. 5-13)

- A. Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil (Jn 3:19-20)
- B. They that sat in darkness have seen a Great Light (Matt 4:14-16; Luke 1:78-79)
- C. The darkness did not understand / overcome it [the Light] (v.5)
- D. He is the Source of all understanding & enlightenment (v.9)
- E. He came, a Stranger, to the world He had made and was rejected (vv.10-11)
- F. He offered Life and Kinship to all who received and believed in Him (vv.12-13)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who

