

## The Light of the World (John 12:44-50)

**His relationship to the world** - "I have come as a light..." (v. 46 cp Isaiah 9:2; John 1:4-5; 8:12; Psalm 36:9)

As the prophet Isaiah predicted,

- **Isaiah 9:2 HCSB** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

As the Apostle John put it,

- **John 1:4-5 HCSB** Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. (5) That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.

As the Messiah previously stated,

- **John 8:12 HCSB** Then Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

All spiritual illumination comes from Him. He is the "light of the world" who holds out wonderful hope for man. All those who come to Christ understand well David's statement,

- **Psalms 36:9 HCSB** for with You is life's fountain. In Your light we will see light.

**How this Light is received** - "anyone who believes..." (v.46; cp Hebrews 11:27 and vv.42-43)

Elohim, being a spiritual being, is less interested in our bodies than He is in our spirits. Bodies come and go, spirits are forever. Thus, being one of His has always been more a matter of the heart than of mere outward conformity.<sup>1</sup>

It was by faith that Abraham believed in the resurrecting power of God and became the first Hebrew.<sup>2</sup> It was by faith that Moses persevered against all odds, as one who sees Him who is invisible.<sup>3</sup> It is by faith that we are adopted into God's family and become sons and daughters of Abraham.<sup>4</sup>

However, look at what happened in Jesus' day.

- **John 12:42-43 HCSB** Nevertheless, many did believe in Him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, so they would not be banned from the synagogue. (43) For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Many believed but did not confess, fearing excommunication and social ostracism. Others failed to believe at all. Either is equally bad and Jesus harshly rebuked them.

- **Matthew 10:32-33 HCSB** "Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. (33) But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven.

The problem with their priority is that jobs come and go, popularity comes and goes. There is nothing more fickle than a crowd. The love of God, on the other hand, abides forever. To reject the love of God for the fickleness of humanity – how foolish!

---

<sup>1</sup> Leviticus 26:40-42; Deuteronomy 10:12-16; 30:4-6; Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25; Ezekiel 44:6-9; Acts 7:51-53; Romans 2:29; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Galatians 5:6; Colossians 2:11

<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 11:19

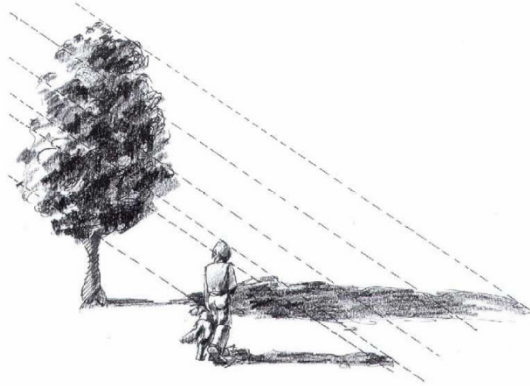
<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 11:27

<sup>4</sup> Galatians 3:7

As Jim Elliot paraphrased Philip Henry “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*”

**The purpose of the Light** – “to save the world...” (v.47 cp. John 3:17)

- **John 3:17 HCSB** For God did not send His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.



From the point in history when the Son of God was born to a virgin in Bethlehem, till this very day and hour, Jesus’ purpose was not to judge but to save. However, like two sides of a coin, judgment is the other side of rejecting salvation. <sup>5</sup>It is not the purpose of the sun’s shining to cast shadows, but when the sun shines brightly and its life-giving rays are blocked by something, shadows are inevitable.

Jesus came to save you. Allow me to ask, is there anything in your life that is blocking His divine light? Are there shadows in your life? Are there aspects to your life that must come under judgment? Please

deal with them now – voluntarily – before the Son returns again. The next time we see Jesus, He will have kingly robes on and will have an iron rod in His powerful hands.

**The consequences of rejecting the Light** - “those who believe shall NOT abide in darkness” (vv.46, 48 cp Romans 1:21-22; 2:6-11)

If those who believe do NOT abide in darkness, then those who fail to believe...

- **John 12:48 HCSB** The one who rejects Me and doesn't accept My sayings has this as his judge: the word I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Jesus spoke further of this matter with the Apostle John during His great Revelation.

- **Revelation 20:10-15 HCSB** The Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (11) Then I saw a great white throne and One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. (12) I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. (13) Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. (14) Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

This is why we Adonaic believers understand that, regardless of their self-aggrandizing statements, anyone who rejects the testimony of the Holy Spirit through the Holy Scriptures is a raving fool.

- **Romans 1:21-22 HCSB** For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. (22) Claiming to be wise, they became fools

On the day the Messiah returns, those of us who have already submitted to His kingship and lived according to His law of liberty will be raised to eternal glory, honor, and peace.

---

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.artinstructionblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/values-sheridoty-2009\\_img\\_13.jpg](http://www.artinstructionblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/values-sheridoty-2009_img_13.jpg)

- **Romans 2:6-11 HCSB** He will repay each one according to his works: (7) eternal life to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; (8) but wrath and indignation to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth, but are obeying unrighteousness; (9) affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; (10) but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. (11) There is no favoritism with God.

**The nature of this light** - "I have not spoken on my own but the Father...command...what I should say" (v.49 cp 1 Timothy 6:16; Matthew 10:28)

Hearing Christ's words bring great responsibility. His word is that which the Father commanded.

- **1 Timothy 6:16 HCSB** the only One who has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom none of mankind has seen or can see, to whom be honor and eternal might. Amen.

Therefore, to reject His word is to reject the Father; the One who possesses the keys to immortality. To reject Jesus is to embrace darkness. To reject Jesus is to seize upon death; not just physical death, but eternal damnation of the spirit.

- **Matthew 10:28 HCSB** Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.