

JESUS CAME AS LIGHT
John 12:46
By Andy Manning
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Christmas is about Jesus coming to earth and taking on human flesh.
2. Why did He come to earth?
3. The NT gives us many answers.
4. One answer is found in John 12:46.

II. TEXT

1. **John 12:46** “I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness.”

III. EXPLANATION

1. Jesus came light.
2. This is the third and last time that Jesus revealed Himself as the light in John. The first time was in John 8:12.
3. **John 8:12** 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.”
4. This is the second of Jesus’ seven “I Am” statements in John. He said he was the bread of life, the gate for the sheep, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the way the truth and the life, the true vine, and the light.
5. Jesus made this statement at an interesting time in the Jewish calendar. It was at the end of the Festival of Tabernacles, which lasted for eight days in the seventh month of their calendar, sometime in our mid-September to mid-October. Every night of the festival, in the court of the women, the priests would light four huge candelabra, and the glow was said to light up the entire city. All night long the people would hold torches in their hands, sing songs of praise, and dance around the candelabra. The meaning of the lights was to remember when God led the Jews through the wilderness with a pillar of fire by night, and a pillar of cloud by day.

6. At the end of the festival, Jesus announced, “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”
7. Jesus came as light to lead us out of darkness.
8. What does that mean?
9. In the Bible, darkness is a metaphor for three things.

IV. THREE WAYS JESUS LEADS US OUT OF DARKNESS

1. Darkness represents sin.

- i. **Romans 13:12** “The night is nearly over, and the day is near; so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
- ii. We still associate darkness with evil: Star Wars and the Dark Side. The main enemy in Lord of the Rings is Sauron, the Dark Lord. The main enemy in Harry Potter is Lord Voldemort, the Dark Lord.
- iii. Jesus came to deliver us from sin.
- iv. So many people today are enslaved to sin. They are addicted to drugs and alcohol, and to sexual immorality; they are filled with hatred, and jealousy, and bitterness.
- v. But Jesus came to deliver us from sin.
- vi. **Romans 6:6** “For we know that our old self, was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin”
- vii. When we believe in Jesus, He gives us a new heart with the desire and power to please Him, as well as the indwelling Holy Spirit to inspire and empower us for holiness. We don’t become perfect, but we have the power to overcome sin and the pain that it causes. When you believe in Jesus, He changes you from the inside out. He makes you into a new person.

2. Darkness represents ignorance.

- i. **Psalms 82:5** “They do not know or understand; they wander in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken.”
- ii. We still use “darkness” like this today. If someone is ignorant, they are in the dark. If they have knowledge and understanding, they are enlightened.
- iii. Jesus came to deliver us from ignorance of God.

- iv. There is a lot of ignorance when it comes to God. Many people believe...
 - 1. There is no God.
 - 2. There are many gods.
 - 3. God is not involved in our lives.
 - 4. God is cruel.
 - 5. God doesn't care how we live. He just accepts everybody and everything.
- v. But Jesus came to deliver us from ignorance about God.
- vi. **John 1:18** "No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him."
- vii. Jesus came to reveal the truth about God:
 - 1. There is a God.
 - 2. There is only one God.
 - 3. God is highly interested in you and intimately involved in your life.
 - 4. He loves you very much.
 - 5. He has an awesome plan for your life; for you to know Him and love Him and serve Him.

3. Darkness represents hell.

- i. **Matthew 25:30** "And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- ii. Jesus came to deliver us from hell.
- iii. The Bible teaches very clearly that there is a hell, and that we all deserve to go there for sinning against God.
- iv. But the good news is that God sent Jesus to die on the cross, to be punished in our place, and then rise from the grave. Now anyone who believes in Him will receive eternal life in heaven instead of hell.
- v. **John 3:16** "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

V. CONCLUSION

1. Christmas lights are a huge part of the Christmas season. The first Christmas lights were invented in 1882 by Edward Johnson, a friend and partner of the light-bulb inventor Thomas Edison. But using lights to celebrate Christmas goes back way before that. For many years Christians before electric light bulbs, Christians would light candles on the tree. The tradition went like this: The tree was set up in the living room, and all the family would gather to see the tree. Then dad or grandpa would light up all the candles. You'd look at it for a few seconds, and then blow out the candles. The candles caused many fires over the years, so that motivated Edward Johnson to invent the electric light bulbs, which only started to go mainstream in about 1920. But what was the purpose of the lights in the first place? The candles pointed to the light of Jesus. Jesus came as light to deliver us from darkness.
2. But there's an important part of John 12:46 that must not overlook.
3. **John 12:46** "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness."
4. Jesus came to deliver us from darkness, but we have to believe in Him.
5. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? It's as simple as A, B, C.
 - i. Admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior.
 - ii. Believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again.
 - iii. Call on Jesus to come into your life as your Savior and Boss.
6. The best way to celebrate Christmas is to ask Jesus, the light of the world, to come into your life, and to be your light.