

“Let there be light.”

What were first words God spoke in the bible?

Genesis 1:3 *Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.*

What do you notice when God speaks?

His will is expressed through His word. Nothing in creation can ever remain the same after hearing it. His commands bring order where there was once disorder.

And whatever He speaks or does is good, it is very good!

There is something called “the law of first mention” and when encountered in the bible, it is always significant.

So, this morning let us study what the bible has to say about the first thing God said: “let there be light.”

In the creation account, the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the deep. He spoke light into darkness and brought life where none existed.

Genesis 1

1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

2 *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

3 *Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.*

4 *God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness...*

It is curious how the light on Day 1 may not mean literal sunlight, as the sun was created on day 4; that is if you believe in a chronological order for creation.

The light God spoke into darkness may speak of more than physical light. Perhaps it speaks of His glory, perhaps it speaks of His truth, power, and creativity – perhaps it speaks of all the above?

In Genesis we read that God created the most perfect world for the pinnacle of creation, and on Day 6 He said:

verse 26 ... *'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...*

You notice the plural: our image and likeness? Another law of first mention: the Trinity - Father, Son and Spirit.

Later we read how the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. Through their disobedience, sin led to separation from God and brought death. However, God knows all things and planned to redeem fallen mankind from before the foundation of the world.

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

There it is again, the law of first mention— Jesus the Seed.

We understand from the OT, that light is often associated with joy, blessing and life - in contrast to sorrow, adversity, and death.

Light, in God's word, is frequently used as a metaphor and does not always have a literal meaning.

Light often symbolises God's:

1. PRESENCE
2. HOLINESS
3. LOVE

1. Light often symbolises God's presence.

Psalm 27:1a *The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?...*

Isaiah 9:2 *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*

Light and the absence of light (darkness) often represent good and evil.

The hostility that exists between light and darkness – good and evil is expressed more fully in the New Testament.

John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

2 Corinthians 6:14 *... For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

Good and evil are opposed to one another – they cannot coexist, and are never in unity with the good, pleasing and perfect will of the Father.

2. Light often symbolises God's holiness.

1 John 1:5 *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light...*

3. Light often symbolises God's love.

The love God has for a fallen world is perfectly expressed on the cross of Calvary.

Jesus referred to himself as the light of the world:

John 8:12 *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."*

Jesus also spoke to His disciples in the sermon on the mount:

Matthew 5:14a, 16 *"You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

So, how do we walk in the light?

We walk in the light by knowing Jesus as Lord and being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. It's a hard walk if you try to make it alone!

2 Corinthians 4:6 *For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.*

To be united with Christ and receive this priceless gift, we must believe we have fallen, turn from our past and put our trust in the light of the world to save us from the power of Satan, sin and death.

What amazing love and grace that God should think of you and me. Therefore, Jesus is worthy of all the glory – He has done it all – it is finished and there is no more boasting about what we have done.

2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us*

We are saved by grace, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

In summary:

God planned a perfect creation for us to live and prosper. His desire is that we would know Him personally and intimately.

However, man (that is all of us) fell short of the glory of God but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge our new, spiritual life is a gift from God.

The love, joy and peace we experience as we walk in the light, grows and bears much fruit, as we remain in Christ.

And as we listen to His voice (Mary taught 2 weeks ago) and allow His power to transform our thinking to become spiritual (Les taught last week) we will reflect the glory of the Father through life in His Son, as we walk together in the light.

Like the moon, which has no light of its own, reflects the light of the sun, we reflect the light of God's Son.

The Good News is that those who are born again and walk in the light will know His presence, His holiness, and His love both today and forevermore. Christians have the most glorious hope of walking in the light for all eternity.

The Apostle John speaking of the new heaven and earth:

Revelation 21:23-24a *The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light...*

Amen