

DARKNESS AND LIGHT



Introduction

- Frequently in scriptures, a strong contrast is drawn between two opposites. Such is true with this lesson.
- Gen 1:1-5
 - *1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

Introduction – Darkness

- Over 130 times in OT & NT
 - ~10 Hebrew & Greek words.
- Used in a variety of senses (literal & symbolic):
 - Conceals, secrecy
 - Sense of chaos, lack of guidance
 - Blindness
 - Not desirable
 - Evil

Introduction - Light

- Over 230 times in OT & NT
 - ~15 Hebrew & 17 Greek words (including *lampas*, *lampo*, *phos*, *photizo*).
- Used in a variety of senses (literal & symbolic):
 - Reveals, openness, provides guidance
 - Sense of order
 - Desirable
 - Good
- Physically essential for life itself and the well being of man:
 - Caving experience “no need for man to grope about in darkness and despair”
 - Depression

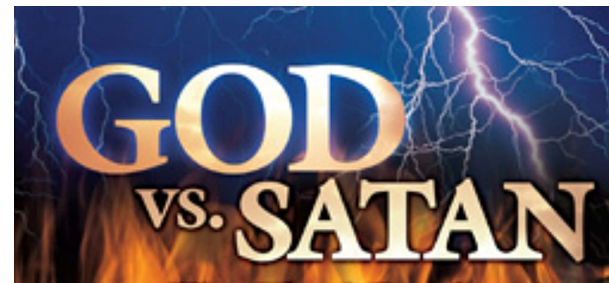
Two Beings in Opposition

Satan

- *“For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”*
2 Cor. 11:14
- *“to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, ...’* Acts 26:18
- *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,”* Col. 1:13

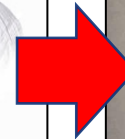
God

- God *“lives in unapproachable light”* 1 Tim. 6:16
- God is *“the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* James 1:17
- *“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”* 1 John 1:5



“Satan versus God”

- A created angel (?) versus the Supreme Being
- Limited power
 - *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:11*
 - *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7*



Roles

Satan Blinds

- *“... 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2 Cor. 4:3-4*



God/Jesus Enlightens

- Jesus is the incarnate Word of God, who came as *“...the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world”* John 1:4-9
- *“I am the light of the world: he who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* John 8:12

“Satan’s ministers...”

□ Beware

- *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness...”*
2 Cor. 11:14-15
- *“...there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies”* 2 Pet. 2:1



Resulting Belief and Doctrine

Ignorance and False Doctrine

- *"9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.""* John 11:9-10
- *"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."* John 1:5
- *"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."* John 3:19

Truth

- *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* Ps. 119:102-105.
- *"46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe,..."* John. 12:46-47
- *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness, ' make his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"* 2 Cor 4:6



Discerning the Difference

Appealing

- *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise,... Gen. 3:6; 1 John 2:16*

Popular

- *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Matt. 7:13*

Human reasoning & traditions

- *...words which man's wisdom teaches... 1 Cor. 2:13*
- *For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men Mark 7:8*

Scripture-based

- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine ... that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim. 3:16-17*
- *...they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11*

Sound Bible study techniques

- Immediate context, author, audience, definition of words, harmonize with other passages

DISCERNING
TRUTH & ERROR

A graphic with a dark background and a diagonal white line. The word "DISCERNING" is written in a light blue, cursive font above the diagonal line. Below the line, the words "TRUTH & ERROR" are written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font.

Resulting Manner of Life

Walking in Darkness

- *"11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked;"* Prov. 2:11-14
- *"19 And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one practicing evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. "* John 3:19-21.
- *"20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; ...21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight"* Isa. 5:20-21

Walking in the Light

- *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid,"* Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15
- *"8 ... Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. "* Eph. 5:8-12
- *"5 ... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* 1 John 1:5-7

Eph. 4

- *17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, ... 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

Results in This Life

Misery and Adversity

- *“10 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons-- 11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High, ” Psa. 107:10-11*
- Negative consequences of sin: blindly stumbling into pitfalls (e.g., anger, greed, alcohol, drugs, porn), STDs, unwanted pregnancies, broken families, money problems, etc.



Well-being

- *“10 [If] you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall [be] as the noonday. 11 The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.” Isa. 58:9-11*
- Encourage/help from fellow-Christians Mark 10:29-30
- Prudent financial responsibility, contentment Phil. 4:11, humility, sense of proper perspective, comfort in prayer, etc.

And in the After-life

Hell

- *"outer darkness" Matt. 25:30*
 - Easton: *"refers to the darkness of the streets in the East, which are never lighted up by any public or private lamps after nightfall, in contrast with the blaze of cheerful light in the house."*
- *"blackness of darkness" Jude 12-13*

Heaven

- *"23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb [is] its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, ... 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there)." Rev. 21:23-25.*
- *"5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." Rev 22:5*

Applications

- Binary – no middle ground
- Exclusiveness of Christianity
 - *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* John 8:24
 - *“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”* Matt. 12:30
- Falsehood of “Once saved, always saved”
 - *“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. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”* 1 John 1:5-6

Applications

- Danger of becoming used to the darkness around us
 - *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”* Eph. 5:11
 - Little/venial sins vs. big/mortal sins
- Danger of growing weary
 - *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matt. 5:16
 - *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* Gal. 6:9; 2 Thes. 3:13

Conclusion

- While darkness is powerful and appeals to many, light is more powerful and excels darkness.
 - *"Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness."* Eccl. 2:13
- God ultimately rules the Darkness.
 - The absolute, sovereign God rules over the darkness and the powers of evil.
- Let us sincerely attempt to please God and conform to His light-imparting word in all things
 - *"... come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord"* (Isa. 2: 5).

