

002 The beginning of the beginning

These first studies ‘The beginning of the beginning’ can be seen as the foundation on which we will stand our studies. If we don’t grasp and understand these foundations, much of Scripture’s teaching will seem to hang in mid air and things to do with the end times will have little meaning.

It is of major importance to note that all Scripture, both Old Testament and New Testament have but one direction and focus and that is to “reveal God the Father and His amazing heart of love to us and lead us to Him.”

If you are looking at these pages and are uncertain of your own stand before the Lord Jesus, I trust you too will find answers to your questions and personally experience ‘first hand’ the amazing love and eternal destiny that God the Father has for you.

So often we read them for the stories, or in these interesting times of the 21st Century, to find out what is going to happen in the future. To some it’s almost like crystal ball reading. If that is all that interests us, then we have missed it big time.

Let’s look at some verses of Scripture to get the ball rolling.

In 1 John 1:5 we read *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

Or the Message version says it this way
5 Walk in the Light; this in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him.

It is important to understand this statement of fact before we go anywhere. God himself is pure light. He and He alone is the source of all light and there is no light outside of him.

He does not have light, nor does he possess light.

He IS light.

This means that there cannot be anything hidden or undercover or even shady about God, His word or any one related to Him i.e. The Son, The Holy Spirit, and you and I His Children.

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Following on John writes; 1 John 1:6-7

*6 If we claim that **we experience a shared life with him** and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth — we're not living what we claim.*

*7 But if we walk in the light, **God himself being the light**, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.*

(from THE MESSAGE:)

Being related as God's children, through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, we are now children of light

Eph 5:8

*8 For you were once darkness, but now **you are light** in the Lord. Live as children of light*

So it is safe to say that wherever God goes, it is total light and darkness cannot co-exist or stay around. So it should be with us, if we believe the scriptures we have just read, simply because He the Father lives in us.

1 John 4:15

*If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, **God lives in him and he in God.***

Our first priority is to “walk in the light as He is in the light” otherwise we cannot have fellowship or anything else with Him or each other.

If you have never surrendered your whole life to Christ Jesus and accepted Him as your Savior and Lord, then you cannot walk in His light. It really is that simple. You cannot be positive of your eternity with Him. You will know Him as your God maybe, but you will not know Him as your loving Father.

However that can all be changed here and now if you ask Him to save you and you commit your whole life and everything you have and are to Him.

Now this also begins to challenge believers in Christ Jesus. There is, sad to say, so much that goes on in the church and the Christian community that cannot be said to be light and truth. Most of us have experienced lying, deceiving, unwholesome speech and jokes, uncouth words and swearing, an act of deceit or unrighteousness, immorality, adultery, and the list goes on.

However Jesus himself gives us a severe warning: -

Mark 4:22

22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it should come to light.

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God has his way of bringing secret and deceptive actions into the light. Recall how many in the Christian media have been exposed and their ministries brought to naught. Don't think He will let us get away with loose living either.

Num 32:23

23 But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the Lord, and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.

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The one thing we must come to terms with in our Christian life and walk is, that God Himself has set the standard of righteous life and he will accept nothing short of His standard. God won't change or move His standard of righteousness, so guess who has to change theirs?

2 Peter 3:11

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, NASB

Wow! Don't you think we all have some cleaning up to do?

At this point folks have already pointed out to me that they are identifying areas of darkness in their lives and realizing their walk with the Lord is nowhere near where it should be and this is good. However this is not to bring any condemnation in any way.

If we are sick and we go to the doctor, before he can prescribe any treatment, he or she has to identify the problem and then prescribe the appropriate action.

It is the same with us. If we acknowledge our walk with the Lord is not where it should be and there are some dark areas hidden in our hearts, we have to identify them before we can have them dealt with.

Remember Jesus came and proclaimed the "Good News" of the Kingdom so hang with me, as there is "Good News" for you.

Now look at: -

Matt 13:43

*Then the righteous will shine **like the sun in the Kingdom** of their Father.*

And again look at Col 1:12-16

*12 ...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the **Kingdom of light**.*

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

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16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Now that is some “Good News”, but there is more to come over these studies.

So far so good. We have seen that God Himself **IS** light. He does not have light or contain light. He is light Himself. We as believers are children of light and should walk in the same light, the same way, as God. Further still, the Kingdom of God is also referred to as the Kingdom of Light.

It further goes on and clarifies what the Kingdom is in verse 16.

All things created by Him are part of His Kingdom.

Now hold on a minute, you might say. Anything unrighteous cannot be part of His Kingdom and there are many scriptures to enforce that.

Absolutely true.

What did God say to Adam and Eve in the garden?

Gen 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

How can you belong to God's Kingdom, which is the Kingdom of Everlasting Life, if you are dead? The dead are dead

Eph 2:1

2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

... 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. NIV

Question.

Can anything live outside of light? Can anything live in total darkness?

Adam and Eve by their disobedience took themselves out of Light and into darkness and death in spirit, Soul and then body.

We have just read it above.

Col 1:13

*For he has rescued us from **the dominion of darkness** and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son he loves,*

1 Cor 15:22;

Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ.

(from THE MESSAGE:)

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I believe it is important for us to understand darkness a little better at this point. In the small book of Jude he writes some big stuff about those who deceive others.

Jude 4

4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord...12-13 These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm — shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted — twice dead.

*13 They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for **whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.***

A personal experience fits well here.

Whilst ministering in North Wales, my wife and I visited a ‘slate mine’. The guide gave a brief outline and then herded us into a ‘people mover’. This tram like thing began moving along the rails and suddenly nosedived down this very steep decline, heading straight for this hole in the ground. Down and down we went finally leveling off, continued about another half mile (804 m) and stopped. The guide asked us to get out of this tram. We were now a few thousand feet in the bowels of this mountain.

The guide explained how slate was mined many years earlier and under all the floodlights we were able to see the harsh conditions she was talking about. The ledges were only about 18 inches (.45m) in height so only 8 to 10 year old boys were able to crawl and work along these ledges, illustrated by boy dummies.

All they had for light was a candle. She suggested we hold onto the railing in front of us as she put out the floodlights and just left the now electric candlelight’s these boy dummies had. It was dark; I mean **dark** yet all over this huge cavern were these flickering candlelights.

Then the guide suggested we hold tight to the railing as she was going to put out the candlelight’s. It was “the Blackness of Darkness”. I put my hand with my palm touching my nose and wiggled my fingers a half an inch (12 mm) from my eyes and I could not see my hand. I mean I could not see anything of any description.

The guide put the candlelight’s back on so we could see again. Our eyes adjusted and then she put a line of lights on so we could see the path back to the tram and out of this hellhole. Yes. That is the closest I have ever come to understanding the darkness of hell and this verse in Jude. “The Blackest Darkness”. It was so intense you could almost feel the darkness.

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We shall talk further about this in later studies.

I need to emphasize this point a little further.

You cannot create darkness; it has no substance.

You cannot go into a room and flick a switch and there is darkness.

You can however be in a room and turn off the light and what is left is darkness.

Darkness is simply the absence of light. You can create light. You can strike a match and there is a flame of light, but you cannot strike a match and there is a flame of darkness.

God is Light and where God is, is all light. Where God is absent, there is only blackest darkness.

If there are some dark areas in your life, you may have struggled to get free from, but you seem to be loosing the battle, I have news for you, you cannot get rid of darkness without letting the light of Jesus shine into those areas. He alone is able to get rid of the darkness, so stop your striving it won't gain you anything. Let Him in and He will take care of it.

But more on this line in later studies. Let's move on.

Now to follow further, you cannot have a Kingdom without having a King; otherwise it is not a Kingdom, but a republic.

1 Tim 6:15-16

...which God will bring about in his own time — God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. NIV

We see that the Lord God Almighty is in fact 'the only Ruler', 'The King of kings' and it is the same Lord God because he dwells in unapproachable Light.

A King has to have a Kingdom and the Kingdom must have substance. You cannot be 'The Ruler' over nothingness.

As a Brit I am proud to say we have a King and Queen Monarchy system.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd rules over her kingdom. Her kingdom is the land mass known as the United Kingdom or Britain namely, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

(Her forbears had a kingdom covering most of the world, hence the saying 'the sun never sets on the British empire'.)

Her subjects are the people who live on that land mass or were born British, or those who swear allegiance to her as queen. Her kingdom is identifiable. My wife and I have lived for many years in the US, but we are still British and she is still our queen.

So where and what is God's Kingdom and is it identifiable?

Kingdom of God consists of all that is in Light.

You have Heaven.

Ps 103:19 *The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.*

You Have The Heavens and the Universe.

Eph 4:10 *He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)*

You have the Earth.

Ps 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;*

So what about His subjects?

His Subjects.

Angels, Elders, Four living Creatures.

Rev 7:11

*All the angels were standing **around the throne** and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces **before the throne and worshiped God,***

Authorities and Powers.

1 Peter 3:22

who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Sons.

1 Thess 5:5

You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

Daughters.

2 Cor 6:18"

I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Every Breathing thing.

Ps 150:6

let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

The Character of the Kingdom

Rom 14:17

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

There are many other aspects of the Character of the Kingdom of God, but they are all rooted in these three, Righteousness, Peace and Joy.

We have looked at some basic elements of the Kingdom of God.

We have seen: -

- 1 God is the source of all light
- 2 It is the Kingdom of Light.
- 3 That God Himself is the King of the Kingdom.
- 4 We are Children of the Kingdom.
- 5 It includes Heaven itself.
- 6 It includes the heavens.
- 7 It includes the Universe.
- 8 It includes the earth.
- 9 It includes the Angels
- 10 It includes the Elders and Living Creatures
- 11 It includes Authorities and Powers.
- 12 It includes those who are Sons of God in Christ Jesus.
- 13 It includes Daughters of God in Christ Jesus.
- 14 It includes everything that has breath.
- 15 Its Character is Righteous, Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit.

More next study.