

Christmas Eve: See The Light

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and **the glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "**Let's go to Bethlehem and see** this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" Luke 2:1-15 NIV*

*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men** from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For **we have seen His star** in the East and have come to worship Him.'" Matthew 2:1-2 NKJV*

*"When they heard the king, they departed; **and behold, the star** which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. **When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy**. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:9-11 NKJV*

Without Light

✓ **Darkness covers the earth.**

"For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples." Isaiah 60:2 NASB

✓ **Darkness confuses the people.**

*"They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in **darkness**; all the foundations of the earth are **unstable**." Psalms 82:5 NKJV*

✓ **Darkness claims our future.**

*"My days are over. **My hopes have disappeared.** My heart's desires are broken. These men say that night is day; they claim that the darkness is light." Job 17:11-12 NLT*

Light In The Darkness

*"Arise, shine; for your **light has come**, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; **but the LORD will rise upon you** and **His glory will appear upon you.** Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising." Isaiah 60:1-3 NASB*

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and **that life was the light of all mankind.**" John 1:1-4 NIV*

*"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and **the darkness has not overcome it.**" John 1:4-5 NIV*

*"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The **true light** that gives **light** to everyone was coming into the world." John 1:6-9 NIV*

1. See the Light.

2. Follow the Light.

3. Become a Light.

*"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who **believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God.**" John 1:4-13 NIV*