



August 19, 2007

## *Darkness*

A common fear in the family of mankind is that of darkness. Darkness is a natural state indicating an absence of light. We look at space and think there is nothing there, yet it is defined by a great black expanse. Darkness is something that God has used to demonstrate his power and other spiritual realities as well. In the beginning the world was without form, void, covered in darkness and only the spirit of God moved on the face of the deep (**Gen 1.2**). The power of God is demonstrated on the first day of creation as God commanded there to be light. He then divided the light from the darkness, calling the light day and the darkness night (**Gen 1.3-4**). In the physical creation we have seen that God has left us reminders of his power and ability as well as His ongoing presence. In the case of darkness we have a tangible manifestation that can be felt as well as understood cognitively. We have all known the fear associated with darkness and are well acquainted with the fact the darkness is the abode of evil and those who practice such things use it to perpetrate their evil deeds against the unwary. In this sense we have a spiritual figure that we can all comprehend. By dividing light from darkness God created the idea that there is a line drawn between the two that cannot be crossed. Darkness cannot exist in the presence of light, and where there is no light we have only darkness. This point was dramatically displayed during the time that God brought the plagues on Egypt to deliver his people from the bondage they had been subjected to. The Lord brought three days of darkness upon the land of Egypt as described in the book of Exodus. ***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”*** (**Ex 10.21-23**). Those who walk contrary to God are said to behave foolishly and their path is charac-

terized as being in darkness (**Eccl 2.14**). When God allowed the enemies of his people to overtake them for the evil they had done, He stated that even though they would hide, He would search them out with candles to deliver them to their foes (**Zeph 1.12**). In the New Testament, those who are outside of the Lord’s family are described as walking in darkness. Paul emphasized this point in his letter to the Ephesians (**Eph 4.18, Eph 5.8**). Paul describes their previous state as having their ***“understanding darkened”*** as they did not know the Lord. Later in his letter Paul refers to the warfare of the Christian as being against the power of darkness. Paul stated that struggle is not just against flesh and blood but against ***“spiritual wickedness in high places”*** (**Eph 6.12**). John characterizes those who walk contrary to the Lord as being in darkness as well (**1 John 2.9-11**). God sent his son into the world to dispel this darkness, so that we could know his will and thus be saved through obedience to him (**1 John 1.5-6**). Paul also comments on this in his letter to the Colossians. ***“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son ...”*** (**Col 1.12-13**). The lack of knowledge of God is a decision that mankind often makes. This was the problem with mankind as Paul states in his writing to the Romans. ***“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*** (**Rom 1.21**). The punishment of those who will not obey God was described by Christ (**Matt 22.13**). Having a realization of this fear, what greater motivator could there be to take note of the will of God and obey him as to avoid this fate. The decision is ours to make. God has enlightened us through His word.

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