

DARKNESS IS AN EVER-PRESENT REALITY

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples...
- Isaiah 60:2 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.
- Isaiah 59:9 (NIV)

¹*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations...A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice...*
- Isaiah 42:1,3 (NIV)

I will lead blind Israel down a new path, guiding them along an unfamiliar way. I will brighten the darkness before them and smooth out the road ahead of them. Yes, I will indeed do these things; I will not forsake them.
- Isaiah 42:16 (NLT)

GOD SHINES HIS LIGHT INTO THIS DARK WORLD

The gates of Zion will lament and mourn; destitute, she will sit on the ground.
- Isaiah 3:26 (NIV)

¹*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.”*
- Isaiah 60:1 (NIV)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
- Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

WE ARE NOW CALLED TO SHINE WITH THE LORD’S GREAT LIGHT

¹*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”*
- Isaiah 60:1-3 (NIV)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- John 8:12 (NIV)

¹⁴ *You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*
- Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

⁸*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*
- Ephesians 5:8-14 (NIV)

OUR SURE HOPE: THE FULL BLAZE OF GOD’S GLORY IS COMING

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.
- Matthew 27:45 (NIV)

¹⁹*The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.*
- Isaiah 60:19-20 (NIV)