



November 27th, 2022 • John 1:5
Advent: Message #1 • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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The Light Shines in the Darkness

1. Jesus is the True Light who Shines in the Darkness –
have you received Him and believed in His name?

2. The Light has come into the World – and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their works were evil (Jn 3:19)

3. Jesus is the Light of the World – whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (Jn 8:12)

John’s Prologue & the Revelation of Jesus Christ

John’s introduction (his prologue) is found in chapter 1, verses 1-18. This prologue introduces and summarizes most of the key words and main themes that John addresses in the rest of the Gospel. A summary of this is listed below, which is adapted from New Testament Scholars D.A. Carson & J.A.T. Robinson (*The Gospel According to John*, by D.A. Carson, 111 [PNTC, © 1991]).

A Comparison of Key Words & Main Themes	Prologue	Gospel
<u>The Revelation of Jesus Christ</u>	<u>1:1 – 1:18</u>	<u>1:19 – 21:25</u>
the pre-existence of the Word (Logos) or Son	1:1-2	17:5
in him was life	1:4	5:26; 17:2; 20:31
the life is light	1:4	8:12
the light is rejected by the darkness	1:5	3:19; 13:30
the light is not conquered/quenched by the darkness	1:5	12:35; 21:3ff
the light is coming into the world	1:9	3:19; 12:46
Christ is not received by his own	1:11	4:44; 19:15
being born to God and not of flesh	1:13	3:6; 8:41f
seeing his glory	1:14	12:41; 17:1ff
the ‘one and only’ (begotten) Son	1:14, 18	3:16; 17:1ff
truth in Jesus Christ	1:17	14:6; 18:37
no-one has seen God (except the one who comes from God’s side)	1:18	6:46; 20:29

The Son of God & the Jesus of History: D. A. Carson says the following: “many of the central, thematic words of this Gospel are first introduced in these verses [see above] ... But supremely, the Prologue summarizes how the ‘Word’ which was with God in the very beginning came into the sphere of time, history, tangibility – in other words, how the Son of God was sent into the world to become the Jesus of history, so that the glory and grace of God might be uniquely and perfectly disclosed. The rest of the book is nothing other than an expansion of this theme” (Carson, 111).

The Theme of Light & Night (common themes like “wilderness” in Mark’s Gospel): John’s revelation of Christ is highlighted by his use of “night” – to symbolically and vividly communicate the spiritual and moral darkness of the world, contrasted with the “light” that has come into the world through Jesus Christ (Jn 1:4ff; 3:2; 9:4; 11:10; 13:30; see also the list above).