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## **Illuminating The Darkness**

<sup>NLT</sup> **John 1:1** In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. <sup>4</sup> Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone. <sup>5</sup> The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. <sup>6</sup> God sent John the Baptist <sup>7</sup> to tell everyone about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was only a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was going to come into the world. <sup>10</sup> But although the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him when he came. <sup>11</sup> Even in his own land and among his own people, he was not accepted. <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan-- this rebirth comes from God. <sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.

<sup>NLT</sup> **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was empty, a formless mass cloaked in darkness. And the Spirit of God was hovering over its surface. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that it was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

"In the beginning." Now those are famous words to those of you who are religious. Even those people who tend to forget...a lot to come to church even know where those words can be found. It is the first words of the Bible. Right smack dab at the very front in Genesis. In The Beginning God created the Heavens and the earth. The earth was a formless mass cloaked in darkness. And the Spirit of God was hovering over its surface.

Now maybe some of you are saying..."Why in the world is he reading from Genesis? This is supposed to be a Christmas sermon! Jesus did not come until the New Testament!" Well, yes your right I guess in a way, but lets look at the scripture that I just read from John..."In the beginning..." Does that sound familiar? Sure it does John is quoting the first words of the bible. A good writing technique if you ask me....why come up with something different and new, when here were words that every one knew (well a good number of people knew). These words would (and at the very least should) get the readers attention if they were even remotely religious...(even the kind of people who tend to forget...a lot to come to church, heh heh).

Then John goes on to say that the Word already existed, he was with God and he was God. Ok, now if we were all young children filled with questions what would we be asking, "What word is he talking about, why is a word personified with the term "he"? You mean this Word is with God just chilln out, and wait a second this Word is God?" and John's answer to all these questions.....yes. heh

Now, we find out later in verse 14 that this Word became human and lived here on earth among us. So in essence John is saying that this Word is Jesus!! Basically, Jesus is the Word of God. OK, that makes sense I mean almost every Bible out there has all the words of Jesus in red ink to make them stand out, so I guess that is understandable, but when you look back in Genesis, Jesus is never mentioned...or is He? When you get to verse three in Genesis you find out that the Word of God is spoken, and it was the Word of God that all things were created, because God spoke them into existence..... Oh there you are Jesus! Right there all along with God the Father, being the Word of God and creating all things by the power of you, the Word.

John understood this, and wanted to show his readers that Jesus, was more than just a man, or a Baby, but the Word of God, and he even takes that further in saying that Jesus was and still is God. Now, I know that in the world today that term, “god” might come with some baggage. You see, people want to blame God for all kinds of things. As if He was the one purposely causing all these horrible things to happen. The loss of a loved one, child, spouse, war, disease, hunger, deformities, natural disasters, the loss a job or a marriage....but lets see what the Bible says, and not what people place onto God.

The earth was a formless mass covered in darkness. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the darkness. Then God said, “Let there be light,”...and there was light. And God saw that it was good. Now you know it has got to be good, if the creator of the universe likes it! Heh heh. But now look deeper into what John is saying about this Genesis passage....Nothing exists that this Word did not create, and this Word gives live, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Everyone has darkness, even in this time of year where a lot of people have to force a smile on just to hide the pain they fill inside. They put up a false light as they sink deeper into the formless mass and become covered over and over by the darkness. It seems as though this darkness is overwhelming, and some live in the darkness because they don't know any better.

But, look at what God is in the business of doing....in Genesis God through His powerful Word, created light. And he saw that it was good. He took something that looked apposing, miserable, dark and formless, and gave it a wonderful gift of light. And now John is telling his readers and is telling you now...that This is the same God. The God that is in the business of transforming what is dark and formless masses, into new creation! And this same Word who all things were created through, has come into his very own creation, to give life, and light. No darkness can overcome this light, for this is the light of the world, it is this light the true light that can bring hope and joy, and peace on earth. This is the light that comes to you this day in the form of a baby. This baby...this Word....this life...comes to you today offering you new light, new birth, and new life! Allow Him to bring His light into your life and experience for the first time or the renewed 100<sup>th</sup> time...His love and grace to bring about a new creation in you! Thank you Jesus, thank you! In the name of the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit...Amen!

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