

New Testament 15
I Am the Light of the World
(John 7-8)
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(This material confirms that Jesus Christ is the Ultimate source of all Light --- from the beginning and into the Future).

- I. In the beginning, Jesus Christ created a Light for the World --- the Sun. In addition to serving us physically, it was meant to testify of Him. It testified of His capacities to **initiate life itself** and **to illuminate truth**.
- A. He would **initiate** mortal life through the Creation, and **Eternal Life for man** through the Resurrection.
 - B. And He would send illuminating Truth.
 - 1. The Old Testament is full of truths God bestowed upon man. And while they became corrupted, many of the same truths can be found among all cultures.
 - 2. In giving the Israelites a calendar based on the moon, however, He witnessed **they** were receiving truths of a lesser light.
 - 3. Paul testified they had been seeing “through a glass darkly” (1 Cor. 13:12).
 - C. I.e., many truths Jehovah gave Israel were hidden parables which would not be understood **until He came and fulfilled them** (Luke 24:44-45).
 - D. Just as His true light now illuminated many hidden truths, due to Jesus, man’s calendar would now be based upon the Sun. For the time for Greater Light had **come**. [While some things pertaining to our solar calendar do have Pagan influences, they actually relate to truths given at the very beginning, but were corrupted].
- II. The Lord also commanded Israel to make a seven-branched candelabra. It was to be made of **beaten gold**, and its light was to come from **oil “beaten for the light.”**(Exodus 25:31-7; 27:17-20).
- A. This light also bore witness of Jesus Christ.
 - B. In fact, because of these commandments, **some Jews came to believe the candelabra witnessed of someone whose sufferings would be so great they would Glow with Light.** (Martin Buber, *Tales of the Hasidim, the Later Masters*, New York: Schocken Books, 1948, p. 177).
 - C. This candelabra was to burn continually in the Temple before the Holy of Holies, testifying it was He who would light the way into the Holy of Holies!
- III. Jesus would suffer so greatly He would indeed glow with light.
- A. The light which would radiate from Him were **His truths concerning love**, *lived* in the bitterest of circumstances, and *lived* through perfect example.
 - 1. For while suffering, He silently bore the sins of those who caused His suffering.
 - 2. He prayed to the Father to forgive those who caused this suffering, still offering them salvation from death.
 - B. Ultimately it was the Jesus the Christ who was “the light set upon a hill” --- that all might see that light.”
 - C. A major theme in the New Testament is **rejoicing in the Light** that they now beheld.

1. Paul speaks of “the light of the glorious gospel of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4).
 2. John rejoiced in this “true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9).
 3. And further that “the darkness is past, and true light now shineth” (1 John 2:8).
- D. Another theme was great sorrow that some preferred darkness over light.

IV. Jesus Christ established “The Feast of Tabernacles” with its usage of light to teach of Himself. **During its eight-day observance, giant candelabra were lit throughout the city.**

- A. He now used its setting, (John 7:2-10), which taught of His future Millennial Reign, to bear witness that He would fulfill its promise of great light at that time.
- B. As these giant candelabra gave their light through the temple courts and the city, “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

V. The full realization of Christ as that Light will begin to be fulfilled in the Millennium.

- A. John, who recorded the symbols of Jesus as Light of the World in his “Gospel,” later wrote in his “Revelation” how Jesus the Christ will fulfill that role.
- B. John revealed of the Millennium, “there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light” (Rev. 22:5).
- C. During the Millennium, our Lord will fulfill more of His promises of Light, in greater radiance --- His perpetual and Eternal Light.

VI. The Jews knew the Feast of Tabernacles taught of the Age of the Messiah. So Jesus used its rituals to witness He is the Light **because He is the Messiah.**

- A. But He did not leave that understanding to chance. In John 7-8, He personally testified He is the Messiah, the Son of God, and thus Jehovah.
- B. Because He knew the time for His death should come soon, Jesus became very bold in openly declaring Himself as Messiah and Son of God. He does this, knowing it will arouse anger! In other words, **He was baiting them, to bring about His own expected death!**
 1. In John 8:12-59, He makes many bold statements concerning His relationship to God the Father.
 2. He makes clear that those in leadership positions [many of whom had obtained those positions through bribery] did not know His Father (vs. 19, 42).
- C. When Jesus dealt with the woman taken in adultery and wrote with His finger (John 8:1-11), it reflected that previous time when **Jehovah wrote with His finger.** It was when He wrote the Ten Commandments. The first commandment He wrote was, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3).

He had just testified He was God, and that these leaders knew not and had forsaken **their true God, who was understood to be their covenanted bridegroom.** They now loved other beings (8:44). So they too were not only guilty, **but guilty of adultery,** and therefore could not judge a woman for that same crime. Jesus’ subsequent teachings were a follow-up of that lesson. And His words were very consistent with Jesus calling them “an adulterous generation” (Mat. 12:39).

VII. Finally, Jesus calls Himself “I AM” (8:58),” the name of Jehovah (See 58b), for He *was* Jehovah. The pre-mortal Jesus had appeared to Moses in a **perpetually burning bush**, calling Himself “I Am.” (Exodus 3:14). These were other witnesses He would come, and *now had come* as the Light of the World (Ex. 3:2).

A. In fact, some Jewish scholars say the full meaning of Yaweh (Jehovah) is “**I Am** He who will be there at the appointed time.” **And Jehovah had come at His appointed time.**

VIII. Jesus not only identified Himself as the Light of the World in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, He has also done so in these Latter-days.

A. If we receive Him and His word, as given in those testaments, and are faithful to it, **and accept His Latter-day Light**, we will grow into **greater and greater light**.

B. “He who receives light and continues in God will receive more light” (D&C 50:24).

C. I find this promise true as I study the scriptures and go to the temple week after week. Even in my late 70’s now, I am amazed at how much light I still sense and gain every time I read the scriptures or attend the temple with a seeking heart.

A few years back, I had cataract surgery, but just in one eye. I remembered, when I was young, reading about people who developed cataracts, and became totally blind. So I am very grateful that modern medicine has developed ways to remove cataracts and allow us to see. Another blessing I was promised, but did not really appreciate until it happened, was that **I would see colors better now**. It was great to compare colors from both eyes. The eye which no longer had a cataract did see the brightness of color better. That brightness is due to the access of light.

This experience has made me more appreciative of light --- and of Jesus the Christ.

The colors of the rainbow are the full reflection of Light and a symbol of His Light.

The closer we come to know Him and to understand His many great attributes, and to understand the **many layered levels of His works**, and to understand the **many layered levels of His teachings**, the more we can more fully see, comprehend and thus worship **Jesus the Christ as the Glorious Light of the World**.

D. But we have also been warned that darkness will strive to snuff out and/or pervert the Light of Christ in the Latter-days.

1. Isaiah, speaking of the Latter-days, indicates we will face this very thing.

a. “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; **that put darkness for light, and light for darkness;...**” (Isaiah 5:20).

2. For some tragic reason, some men still prefer darkness over Christ’s great and highly glorious Light.