

## THE LIGHT OF LIFE VANQUISHED THE DARKNESS

### I. Luke 2:8-14

**A. Luke 2:8-14 (ESV) is familiar ground this time of year: 8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

**B. The darkness of those Bethlehem fields was a metaphor for the darkness of sin and death that enveloped the world and every heart therein. And then a portal opens and the resplendent glory of God shines upon lowly shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. Light pierces the darkness as Immanuel, *God with us*, Jesus--God the Son, is born! The *Light of the World*, the *Bright & Morning Star*, the *Light of Life*, has come to vanquish the darkness!**

**C. First the humility and obscurity of the event: It takes place in a small town. (*We can relate to that.*) The birth happens in an smelly barn. (*Anyone here born in a barn?*) The Baby Jesus' bassinet is a feeding trough. (*I'll bet your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren had better than that!*) And who were the first visitors in the ancient odorous nursery? Shepherds!**

**D. But let's move from the humility and obscurity to the light and glory that came piercing this dark realm. The Apostle John has much to say about the *Light of Life*. Listen to his *Light of Life* montage. John 1:1-5 (ESV) kicks it off: **1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* John 3:19-21 (ESV) is **Jesus to Nicodemus, who came by night seeking Jesus: 19** "And this is the judgment: the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the Light and does not come to the Light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the Light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." John 8:12 (ESV) to the people: **12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life." John 12:46 (ESV) **Jesus cries aloud in Jerusalem the week of His sacrifice: 46** *I have come into the world as Light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.* 1 John 1:5-7 (ESV) is a reminder to us all: **5** *This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.* (The Bread & Cup remind us...)**

**E. And what about when darkness is finally no more, when we're strolling the well lit streets of New Jerusalem in the New Heaven & Earth? Revelation 21:22-25 (ESV) tells how New Jerusalem will be gloriously lit: **22** *And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there.* (We'll meet those lowly shepherds basking in that light--the light & glory they only glimpsed in those dark Bethlehem fields so long ago!)**

**F. So let me ask: Has the *Light of the World*, the *Light of Life*, Jesus our Lord, cast His light into your little world? Has He vanquished your darkness? Jesus is not afraid of the dark--not even the darkness in you! He came to pierce your darkness and maybe He's doing that right now. May the lyrics of that ancient chorus (found in Ephesians 5:14) become your new song tonight: "*Awake, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!*"**

**G. So the days of darkness are diminishing and their fading away began in a Bethlehem stable. They continued to fade with the sinless life of the Righteous One. They were obliterated on a cross where the *Light of Life* died for our sins. The vanquishing of the darkness was accentuated and validated with the rising of the *Bright and Morning Star* when He vacated His tomb and brought a new dawn to all those who would become His children. And you should also know: The Bread & Cup remind us...**

\* Pray & Serve Communion...

## Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

### Luke 2:8-14 (ESV)

**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

### John 1:1-5 (ESV)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

### John 3:19-21 (ESV)

**19** And this is the judgment: the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the Light and does not come to the Light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the Light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

### John 8:12 (ESV)

**12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life."

### John 12:46 (ESV)

**46** I have come into the world as Light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.

### 1 John 1:5-7 (ESV)

**5** This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

### Revelation 21:22-25 (ESV)

**22** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there.

## Film Clips & Article Links

"Light of the World" - Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLhaZIBSpo>

## Bonus Stuff

### Isaiah 60:1-3 (ESV)

**1** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. **2** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. **3** And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

### Light of the World

Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, & Paul Mabury

The world waits for a miracle,  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope,

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel!  
A child prays for peace on Earth  
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt,  
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel!

And can you hear the angels singing?  
Glory to the Light of the world!  
Glory, the Light of the world is here!

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother,  
A baby's cry is the sound of love,  
Come down, come down, Emmanuel!  
He is the song for the suffering,  
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come!  
He has come, Emmanuel!

Glory to the Light of the world!  
Glory to the Light of the world!  
Glory to the Light of the world!  
Glory to the Light of the world!  
For all who wait,  
For all who hunger,  
For all who've prayed,  
For all who wonder,  
Behold your King,  
Behold Messiah,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel!

Glo-glory to the Light of the world!  
Glory to the Light of the world!  
Glory to the Light of the world!  
Behold your King,  
Behold Messiah,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel!

The world waits for the miracle,  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope,  
Oh come, oh come Emmanuel!

Songwriters: Lauren Daigle / Paul Duncan / Paul Mabury; *Light Of The World* lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Essential Music Publishing, Capitol Christian Music Group.