

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2003**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE DIVINE ECONOMY IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

Message Seven

The Unveiling of Christ as the Great Light

Scripture Reading: Isa. 9:1-5; Matt. 4:16-20; John 8:12; 12:36; Eph. 5:8-9

I. The light in Genesis 1:3 is a type of Christ as the real light—John 1:4-5, 9:

- A. Christ is the true light of the universe; He is the rising sun from on high, the bright morning star, and the Sun of righteousness—Luke 1:78; Rev. 22:16b; Mal. 4:2.
- B. The physical light in Genesis 1:3 is a type of Christ as the spiritual light for the new creation—2 Cor. 4:6; 5:17:
 - 1. Light is necessary for generating life; according to the revelation in the Bible, light is for life—John 8:12; 1:9, 12:
 - a. Where light is, there is life; this is a great principle in the Scriptures.
 - b. Life comes from the shining of light; when light enters, life follows.
 - c. As we receive stronger and more definite light, the life within us grows:
 - (1) The first-day light is for generating life—Gen. 1:3-5.
 - (2) The fourth-day lights are for the growth in life—vv. 14-19.
 - 2. In Genesis light is for the old creation, but in the Gospel of John light is for the new creation—1:4-5, 9, 12; 8:12; 12:36:
 - a. The old creation was brought into existence through physical light.
 - b. The new creation is brought into being through Christ as spiritual light.
 - c. The God who commanded light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts—2 Cor. 4:6:
 - (1) His shining in the universe produced the old creation.
 - (2) His shining in our hearts has made us a new creation.

II. Christ is the great light for shining in darkness and for release from bondage—Isa. 9:1-5:

- A. The prophecy in verse 2 was fulfilled in Matthew 4:16:
 - 1. When Christ came to Galilee, the people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those sitting in the region and shadow of death, light sprang up.
 - 2. Christ's ministry did not begin with earthly power but with heavenly light:
 - a. This light is Christ Himself as the light of life, shining in the shadow of death—John 12:46; 8:12.
 - b. Christ is the great light with the power to attract people and capture them—Matt. 4:17-22.
- B. Christ saves us by shining on us; His shining upon us as the great light is our salvation—Acts 9:3; 22:6; 26:13.
- C. Christ as the great light is the light of life—John 8:12; 1:4:

1. Christ is the unique light; apart from Him there is no light—12:46.
 2. The reason so many Christians are in darkness is that they do not have Christ in an experiential way—Micah 7:8.
 3. We can see light only in the light of Christ; if we want light, we must receive Christ and touch Christ—Psa. 36:9b; cf. Isa. 50:10-11.
- D. God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light—1 Pet. 2:9:
1. Darkness is the expression and sphere of Satan in death; light is the expression and sphere of God in life.
 2. God has called us, delivered us, out of Satan’s death-realm of darkness into His life-realm of light—Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13.
- E. By His shining as the great light, the Lord releases the imprisoned ones from bondage—Isa. 9:4.
- F. Christ as the great light destroys our enemies and destroys their armor—v. 5; 2 Thes. 2:8.
- G. The transfiguration, the shining, of the Lord Jesus on the mountaintop was His coming in His kingdom, the coming of the kingdom in power—Matt. 16:28—17:2:
1. The kingdom is the shining of the reality of the Lord Jesus—Mark 9:1-3.
 2. The kingdom of God is the Lord Jesus shining over us—Luke 9:27-29.
 3. Whenever Christ is shining over us and we are under this shining, we are in the kingdom—Col. 1:12-13.

III. “You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light”—Eph. 5:8:

- A. We are not only children of light—we are light itself:
1. Darkness is the nature of Satan, the devil, in his evil works; light is the nature of God in His expression—1 John 3:8; 1:5-7.
 2. We were darkness because we were one with the devil; now we are light because we are one with God in the Lord—Matt. 5:14; 1 John 1:5.
- B. When we are in the light, we are outside the realm of right and wrong—1 John 1:5, 7.
- C. If we walk as children of light, we will bear the fruit of the light in goodness, righteousness, and truth—Eph. 5:9:
1. God the Father as goodness is the nature of the fruit of the light; therefore, goodness in verse 9 refers to God the Father—Matt. 19:17.
 2. Righteousness refers to God the Son, for Christ came to accomplish God’s purpose according to God’s righteous procedure—Rom. 5:17-18, 21.
 3. Truth, the expression of the fruit of the light, refers to God the Spirit, for He is the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 16:13.
- D. God’s way of transforming us is through the enlightening from the two lamps within us—the Spirit of God and our human spirit (John 4:24; Luke 15:8; Prov. 20:27); the one who experiences the most transformation is the one who is absolutely open to the Lord—2 Cor. 3:18.