

A person stands in the center of a forest, silhouetted against a bright light source, likely the sun, which creates a strong lens flare and illuminates the scene with a warm, golden glow. The trees are tall and thin, their trunks forming a vertical pattern. The overall mood is one of hope and spiritual illumination.

2022 THEME

OUT OF DARKNESS

INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT

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1 PETER 2:9-10

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**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

1 PETER 2:9-10



## IN THE BEGINNING

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- **Our own emergence from darkness into light echoes the creation account in Genesis. Right from the start there was an incompatibility between light and darkness (Genesis 1:1–4). God recognized the inherent goodness of light.**
- **It is revealing, life-sustaining, and positive, while darkness is shrouding, associated with chaos or death, and is, by definition, negative (the absence of light). God knew that removing the cloak of darkness and forming a world teeming with complex and orderly systems was inherently “very good.”**



BUT WE STILL WONDER WHY...



## GOD IS LIGHT

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- **“God is light” (1 John 1:5) provides a foundation for our understanding of a life that is “well-lit.” God is pure, good, honest, and unafraid. So a life that is in the light will be conformed to this pattern. As an essential part of His nature, God always models (and commands) orderliness and illumination.**
- **Having God as a starting point (Psalm 119:105 & 130, 27:1, Isaiah 2:5) eliminates the possibility of deluding ourselves into thinking we have light, when in fact we are in darkness (Proverbs 4:18–19). After all, we get used to living in the dark if we stay long enough.**

A person is walking away from the camera down a path in a forest. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect and long shadows. The trees are tall and thin, and the overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

HERE IS THE PROBLEM...



# SEARCHING FOR A LIGHT IN THE DARK

- All of this sounds fine in theory, but mankind was still left, like the description in Acts 17:27, “feeling their way toward” God. His ways are higher than my ways, His thoughts higher than mine. So something had to bridge the gap between Creator and creation.
- Jesus is the brilliant extension of the light of God in this world. The Hebrew writer uses this language, stating, “He is the radiance of God’s glory, the exact representation of His nature” (1:1-4).
- John 1:1-10
- It is more than coincidence that the Creation language is being echoed here in the beginning of John’s gospel. In the great battle between light and darkness, Jesus was the overwhelming victor, the ultimate light, the One who brought light to all the human race.



## THREE TAKEAWAYS

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- **SEEK THE LIGHT, BOTH HERE AND THERE** — Living a life in God's light here on earth leads to a life of pure and endless light in heaven (Revelation 21:22-27). This earthly life includes both a foretaste of light as well as reminders of why this is not my home.
- **CHOOSE THE WINNING SIDE** — Darkness is always overcome by light. God's victory is already assured, so be on the right side of this battle (Psalm 139:7-12, 1 John 1:5).
- **YOU HAVE A LIGHT IN THE DARK, SO FOLLOW IT** — John 12:35-36, 12:44-46, 9:5, 8:12.