



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -  
GRAND THEMES 8 - LIGHT

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The text is centered within the open space of the frame.

# WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the  
whole Bible.







The image features two lit candles, one on the left and one on the right, set against a solid black background. The flames are bright yellow and orange, casting a soft glow on the surrounding area. In the center, the words "LIGHT & DARKNESS" are written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "LIGHT &" on the top line and "DARKNESS" on the bottom line. The overall composition is simple and evocative, symbolizing the contrast between light and dark.

LIGHT &  
DARKNESS




# Theme gallery

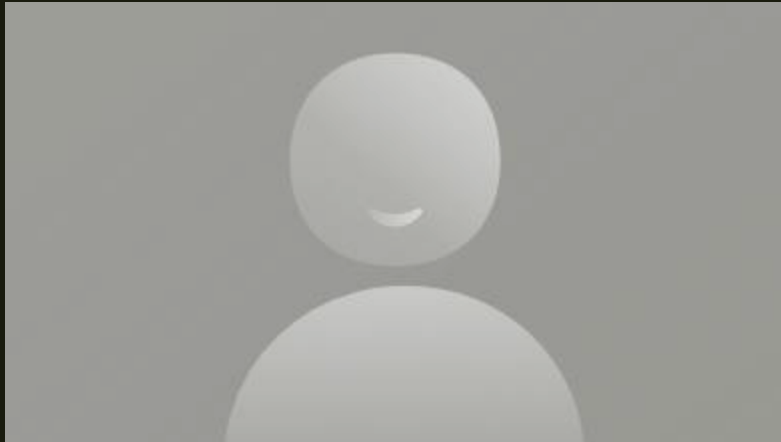


<p>TEMPLE</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>  	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>EXODUS</p> 

# Theme gallery



				
L&D				



# Genesis

- **Genesis 1:3** And God said, “Let there be **light**,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God **separated** the **light** from the **darkness**. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day
- **Genesis 1:14–18 (HCSB):** Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to **separate the day from the night**. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years. 15 They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to have dominion over the day and the lesser light to have dominion over the night—as well as the stars. 17 God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, 18 to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.
- What do we learn here about **light** and **darkness**?

# Prophets

- Isa 5:20 - Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- Why do we naturally equate light with goodness, and night with evil? Where does that understanding come from?
- What does this verse teach us about good and evil?
- Keep them separate. Don't mingle them. Don't try to swap them.
- How does this relate to what we read in Genesis?





# Prophets



- (Isa 9:2) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
- What's this taking about?
- Isaiah 9:1 (HCSB): Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future He will bring honor to the Way of the Sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to **Galilee of the nations**.
- Isaiah 9:6 (HCSB): For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.





# Prophets



- (Isa 60:1-3) Arise, shine, for **your light** has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. And nations shall come to **your light**, and kings to the brightness of your rising
- Whose light?
- Where does the light come from?
- Promise of future blessing to God's people



# Psalms



- Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- Ps 119:13 The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple
- Proverbs 6:23 For a command is a lamp, teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life.
- Reflect on this. Commands as a lamp



# Coming of Jesus



- (Jn 1:1-5) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- Where do you recognise this language from?
- So, how do you think John might frame his gospel?



# Gospel of John – many references to light



- (Jn 3:19-21 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. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be **exposed**. 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.”
- What does it mean to “love the darkness”?
- What does it mean to “come into the light”?
- What is the effect of “exposure”?
- Embarrassment or change.



# Gospel of John



- (Jn 12:35) So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.
- Who/what is the light here?
- So what is Jesus saying?
- Why did Jesus hide himself from them? How do we figure this out?
- Need to find who he is talking to and what was going on...
- Jesus is predicting his death is coming soon, but the crowd weren’t getting it – the idea that the Son of Man would be “lifted up”... who is this Son of man?
- What does that all tell us about what is involved with “walking in the light”?
- You have to be intentionally. Seeking out the truth.

# Two Kingdoms



- (Col 1:13) He has delivered us **from** the domain of darkness and **transferred us to** the kingdom of his beloved Son,
- (1 Pet 2:9) But you are a chosen race, 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.

# Christian Walk



- (Eph 5:8) For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
- How do understand the idea of “walking as a child of light”?

# light & love

a study of 1st John



# Light v Dark = Love v Hate



- (1 Jn 2:8-11) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- What is the new commandment?
- John is linking this commandment with light and darkness. What is the significance of that?
- This put the command to love on the same footing as the light of the gospel itself.



# Revelation



- (Rev 22:5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.
- So here we are at the end of the Bible. Where are we headed?
- No more darkness. Defeat of darkness. What would that be like from where you stand?



# Reflection



- How clear to me is the difference between “light” and “darkness”.
- How much do I pay attention to “walking in the light”
- Do I have anything in my life that needs to be brought into the light.
- Reflect on the connection between “light/darkness” and “love/hate”.

Next time...



# Kingdom