The Witness of the Light

John 1:6-13

Introduction:

I. The Revelation of the Light – 1:6-8

A. The Preacher – 1:6

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“There was (Ἐγένετο) a ﻿﻿man sent (ἀποστέλλω) from God, whose name *was* John.”

1. There was a Man –

Not all “wases” are the same. In verses 1 and 2 was (ἦν) occurs 4 times.

“ἦν”, was means – to exist by nature.

In verse 6, concerning John, the Baptist, we read that, He came to be (Ἐγένετο). He was not, (did not exist) then he came to be a man. He was sent from God.

ἀποστέλλω is not is the general word for send.

B. The Purpose – 1:7

“This man came for a ﻿﻿witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might ﻿﻿believe.”

He was a prophet, commissioned for a particular job –to bear witness of the Light. I.e. to announce Jesus’ coming.

C. The Prophecy –

1. Old Testament Prediction –

a. Malachi 3:1

“Behold, ﻿﻿I send My messenger, and he will ﻿﻿prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, ﻿﻿He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.

b. Isaiah 40:3

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; ﻿﻿Make straight ﻿﻿in the desert, a highway for our God.”

2. New Testament fulfillment – Mark 1:1

C. The Process – 1:8

“He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that ﻿﻿Light.”

John was not that light. He repeatedly had to tell people that

“Now this is ﻿﻿the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ﻿﻿He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you ﻿﻿the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” He said: “I *am* ‘the voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” (1:19-23-Isa. 40)

Even so, some people took a while to get beyond John the Baptist.

1. Apollos (Acts 18) Knew Only of John’s Message.

Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and told him that Jesus had arrived, was crucified, was buried, resurrected and ascended.

2. The Disciples of John in Ephesus. (Acts 20)

They had not even heard of (the coming Jesus) or of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. So Paul told them. Then they believed on Jesus and were baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Spirit.

II. The Response to the Light – 1:9-13

A. The Light Was Shown – 1:9

“There was ﻿﻿the true Light ﻿﻿which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” (NASB)

There is a question in this verse concerning “who or what” was “coming into the world”

1. “every man” was Coming into the World (KJV)

It is true that “coming into the world” comes directly after “every man” in the Greek text, or

2. The Light was Coming into the World

Either is possible grammatically, maybe leaning toward #1 so that leaves context. It seems to me that context favors #2

John is speaking about the light - the Word- Jesus. It is Jesus Who was incarnate in flesh. He came into the world. {V. 10 “He was in the world”} So, I believe that John means that: “It is the light that is coming into the world”. He gives light to every man.

This “every man” does not mean: That everyone will be saved or even that everyone will hear the message. It is everyone without distinction, not everyone without exception. The Jews would have kept Jesus to themselves. Some early Christian Jews tried to do just that!

Paul had to remind them that: There is neither Jew nor Greek, ﻿﻿there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all ﻿﻿one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28

B. The Light Was Shunned – 1:10-11

1. Their Chance – 1:10

a. His Manifestation

“He was in the world,”

In verse 14, he is going to say that the Word, Jesus, tented or tabernacled among us (for a visit). He was here; but God is Omni-present! He was also here in bodily form.

b. His Creation

“the world was made through (by) Him” - They did not recognize their creator.

c. His Recognition

“and ﻿﻿the world did not know Him.”

Mankind did not recognize Him because the race had sinned and got so far away from the creator. Man was made in the image of the creator, but he had got so far away from God that the image had faded away.

2. Their Collapse – 1:11

a. His Own Creation Accepted Him – 1:11a

﻿“He came to His ﻿﻿own, (τὰ ἴδια) things”

1). Elements obeyed Him – Matt. 8:23-27

Disciples: “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

Jesus: He rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Disciples: Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

2). Demons Obeyed Him – Matt. 8:34

They asked permission to go into the pigs. Jesus gave it; they went in.

3). The Animals Obeyed Him – Mark 11:2

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“and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it*.*”

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.

b. His Own People Rejected Him – 1:11b

“and His ﻿﻿own (οἱ ἴδιοι) people did not receive Him.”

The leaders, speaking for the nation, rejected Him. “We will not have this man to rule over us!” But they did not speak for every individual.

C. The Light Was Shared – 1:12-13

1. Their Birth was Spiritual – 12

a. The Requirement –

“But ﻿﻿as many as received Him… to those who believe in His name:”

In this verse, believe and receive are synonymous. Like “drink” in John 4; “come” in John 5; and “eat” in John 6.

b. The Result –

“to them He gave the ﻿﻿right” (ἐξουσίαν) [their birth certificate] to become children of God.”

That is your proof of eternal life.

2. Their Birth was Not Natural – 1:13

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“who were born – not by:”

a. Human Descent - “not of blood,”

You are not a Christian because you were born into a Christian family (I Cor. 7:14, notwithstanding)

b. Human desire – “nor of the will of the flesh”

You can’t just decide that you will be a child of God

c. Human Design – “nor of the will of man,”

This may be a reference to the husband who at that time decided whether there would be children. But – [they were born] – of God. God decides who will have eternal life. In this context John is saying, “It is God’s way or no way.”

D. James Kennedy’s question…

Conclusion:

