

In a Word - Darkness

Introduction

- Darkness Defined: the partial or total absence of light. Also wickedness or evil.
- Nyctophobia (*nik-ta-phobia*) (fear of the dark) is very common, especially among children. Some researchers estimate that nearly 45% of children have an unusually strong fear of darkness.
 - Some say that 11% of adults are afraid of the dark.
- The word “darkness” appears some 205 times in the NKJV, slightly more or less in other versions.
- As we will see in this study, Christians should have a healthy respect and fear of spiritual darkness.

I. Darkness in the Physical World

- a. The first mention of darkness is found during the Creation event:

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2)

- i. Since darkness is the absence of light, then at this moment, there was no light on the earth, but it would soon be rectified.

(3) Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. (4) And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:3–4)

- ii. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night.

- b. The darkness of night was created for the nocturnal animals or were the animals created for the night?

You make darkness, and it is night, In which all the beasts of the forest creep about. (Psalm 104:20)

- c. Miraculous events of darkness.

- i. God used darkness as the ninth plague on Egypt.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.” (Exodus 10:21)

- ii. The plague of darkness would last three days.
- iii. It may be best described as the darkness felt in a deep cave or cavern.

- d. Darkness just before the death of Jesus.

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. (Matthew 27:45)

- i. Darkness lasted three hours, noon until 3 PM (Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45)

- e. More miraculous events of darkness. At the Second coming of Christ...

The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. (Joel 2:31)

- i. Repeated in the following verses:

Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24; Acts 2:20; Revelation 6:12

II. Darkness in the Spiritual World

- a. The word darkness is used to describe the Haden Relam.

- i. The word “darkness” appears 32 times in the book of Job, a story filled with darkness.
- ii. Job spoke of a land of darkness...

Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, To the land of darkness and the shadow of death... (Job 10:21)

- b. The Psalmist of Psalm 88 used the word darkness to describe the grave...

You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths. (Psalm 88:6)

- c. Many times Jesus used the term “outer darkness” to describe spiritual punishment.
 - i. The Parable of the Talents

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (Matthew 25:30)

- ii. Outer Darkness

1. Israel’s Rejection of Christ (Matt. 8:12)
2. Parable of the Marriage Feast (Matt. 22:13)
3. Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:30)

- d. A place for false teachers.

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment... (2 Peter 2:4)

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day... (Jude 6)

III. Darkness in the Hearts of Men

- a. Solomon warns his son of the darkness of man's evil heart.

(11) Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, (12) To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, (13) From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; (14) Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked; (15) Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths... (Proverbs 2:11–15)

- b. Darkness in the Wisdom Writings:

- i. Way of the Wicked is Like Darkness (Prov. 4:19)
- ii. (Wisdom excels folly like) Light Excels Darkness (Eccl. 2:13)
- iii. Fools Walk in Darkness (Eccl. 2:14)
- iv. Life Will Have Days of Darkness (Eccl. 11:8)

- c. People desire darkness and will justify it to remove guilt from themselves.

- i. Jesus said...

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19)

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! (Isaiah 5:20)

- d. The eyes are the window of the soul...

(22) "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. (23) But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (Matthew 6:22–23)

- i. Throughout the epistles, the word "darkness" is used to describe sin and sinful behavior.

1. Works of Darkness (Rom. 13:12)
2. Hidden Things of Darkness (1 Cor. 4:5)
3. Unequally Yoked, Light and Darkness (2 Cor. 6:14)
4. Unfruitful Works of Darkness (Ephesians 35:11)
5. Not in Darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:4)
6. Called Out of Darkness (1 Peter 2:9)

- e. The Christians who fail to practice biblical love is walking in darkness.

He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. (1 John 2:9, 11)

- i. Even though we are susceptible to allowing darkness to inter into us, it is an impossibility for God.

- f. No darkness in God...

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

- g. Even though there is no darkness in God, He knows what dwells in the darkness and judge them accordingly.

He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. (Daniel 2:22)

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

(1 Corinthians 4:5)

- h. God can remove man's inner darkness.

For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. (Psalm 18:28)

- i. The Messianic prophecies promised deliverance from the darkness.
 - i. A similar promise can be seen in Matthew 4:16.

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

- j. And we now know the promise has been fulfilled and come to pass...

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13–14)