

The Night before CHRISTMAS

JOHN 8:12

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DECEMBER 24, 2017

Introduction: “The Night Before Christmas” is not just a favorite poem but a frank assessment of the spiritual condition of the world the day before Christ arrived on Planet Earth. Into a world enveloped in spiritual darkness, the Light of the World came to accomplish four objectives we will discover today.

John 1:6-9 ⁶ “There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. ⁹ There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

John 8:12 “I [Jesus] am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 12:46 “I [Jesus] have come as light into the world that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.”

I. **Light Commands Our Attention** (Isaiah 9:2)

Isaiah 9:2 “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” (NIV)

II. **Light Reveals Our Flaws** (John 3:19-20)

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John 3:19-20 ¹⁹ “And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”

Matthew 2:1-3 ¹ “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.’ ³ And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.”

Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

III. **Light Overpowers Our Darkness** (Ephesians 6:12)

Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

IV. **Light Offers Us Direction** (John 14:6)

John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.”

Conclusion