

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-2 God Is Light

In our last lesson you learned that God is eternal, that He had no beginning and will have no end. Today you will learn that God is light and that this aspect of God reveals something very important about His personality.

One of Jesus' original 12 disciples was a fisherman named John. It is said that he was Jesus' closest friend. The Apostle John wrote one of the four Gospels or books that told the life story of Jesus. He also wrote three important letters to the churches. In John's first letter he taught an amazing truth. He wrote, "This is the message we have heard from Jesus and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all" (1John 1:5).

John also wrote a fifth book. It became the last book in the Bible and is titled Revelation. The last few pages of this book reveal an amazing truth about the light of God.

Here is how the book came about. When the Apostle John was an old man he was arrested by the Roman Emperor, Domitian, and banished to the prison island of Patmos. The island of Patmos was a small rocky volcanic island about 60 kilometers (37 miles) off the coast of present-day Turkey. A person could walk the length of the island in a half day and across the island in just a few hours. It was here on this desolate island that John would see an amazing vision. It was Sunday, the Lord's day, and John was in the Spirit worshipping God when suddenly he heard a loud voice behind him saying, "Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches" (Rev 1:11). And with that, it was revealed to John the things that would happen in the future both in heaven and on earth.

At the very end of the incredible vision, John wrote, "And one of the angels before God's throne carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shown with the glory of God, and its brilliance was that of a very costly gem stone, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper" (Rev 21). To John this must have been an amazing sight as jasper is rarely clear and never crystal clear.

"The city had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates were twelve angels. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

The city was massive. It was 2,200 kilometers wide and 2,200 kilometers long and 2,200 kilometers high (a 1400-mile cube). The city was made of gold so pure that you could see through it like glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious gemstone and the gates to the city were made from 12 massive pearls, one pearl for each of the gates. And the street was also of pure gold like transparent glass.

John said, “I looked for a temple in the city, after all, every great city must have a temple to worship in. But there was no temple to be found for the Lord God Almighty and His Son, Jesus, the Lamb of God, is its temple.”

And now for a most amazing truth—one that reveals another aspect of the nature of God. The city has no need for the sun or moon to shine in it for the glory of God illuminates it and its lamp is Jesus, the Lamb of God! Now great walled cities close and lock their gates each night to keep out those who would come to steal, kill, or destroy. But the gates to the New Jerusalem are never closed for there will never be darkness again. God himself illuminates the city with His glory.

And nothing that is dirty, or anyone that practices detestable acts, or people who lie will ever be allowed into the city. Only those people whose names have been written in Jesus the Lamb's Book of Life will be allowed through the gates of pearl into the presence of the glory of God.

The angel took John into the city and showed him the river of the water of life. This river was crystal clear and flowed from the throne of God and Jesus the Lamb. It flowed down the middle of its own special street. On both sides of the river grew the tree of life which bore twelve kinds of fruit.

There will no longer be any curse, for the throne of God and Jesus the Lamb will be in the city. His bond-servants, those who have claimed Jesus as their Lord and Savior, will serve Him. They will see His face and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will never again be any night and there will never again be a need for the light from a lamp or the light of the sun because the Lord God will illuminate that place. And they, those who serve Jesus as their Lord and Savior, will reign forever and ever.

What an amazing revelation of the glory and nature of God! God is light and in Him is no darkness. His light is pure. There is no shadow. There is nothing hidden. Everything is illuminated and exposed by His light.

Light does not change. It is always light and never darkness. Light is pure energy and is the source from which all life is derived.

What does this tell us about God's nature? Like light, God is pure. He is always good and there is never even the shadow of evil in Him. He illuminates and exposes all things, He never hides in darkness.

The lesson is **important** because it reveals that the glory of God will be the source of all light in the New Jerusalem.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God is light, the source of all life and from whom nothing can be hidden.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. In our lesson today we learned that one of Jesus' twelve disciples was a man named John who was exiled to an island. What was the name of the island? [Pause 5 seconds.]

A. If you said the island was Patmos, you are correct.

2. What happened to John while he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day? [Pause 5 seconds.]

A. If you said that he saw a vision, you answered correctly.

3. John made an amazing statement about the nature of God in his first letter to the churches. What was it that John said God is? [Pause 5 seconds.]

A. If you said that God is light and in Him there is no darkness, you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to replay this lesson two or three times until you can repeat the story accurately and quote "This is the message we have heard from Jesus and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all" (First John 1:5). Then, find someone and tell them the story of John's vision and teach them the verse you have learned. Discuss with a friend the questions: "Does God give visions to people today? Do you know anyone who has seen a vision from God?"