

Deep Darkness Covers the Peoples

I was thinking this morning about the evil facing the world, the dominion of darkness. There are so many places in the Scriptures that talk about the darkness and the evil dominion that is covering the whole earth, and about the dawn that is coming. People are held in captivity in Christianity, the double prison, as we call it.

A lot of us were born in the Edah, but still our darkness has to be enlightened. Ps 18:28 is the first thing that has to happen to us. He has to enlighten our darkness.

For You will light my lamp; the Sovereign my God will enlighten my darkness. (Ps 18:28)

This is essential. A person's darkness holds him back. Jn 3:18 speaks about a particular kind of evil or darkness – that of those whose deeds are evil. They are a particular kind of people who hear the truth over and over again, but somehow they don't fall on the Rock to be broken. They end up waiting for the Rock to fall on them and grind them to powder (Mt 21:44).

To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Lk 1:77-79)

Those are wonderful words, aren't they? It is so wonderful that we can be those who experience that peace, which is the ministry of the light in these last days. It comes to those people whose darkness has been enlightened.

When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. (Lk 22:53)

The power of darkness, such as came upon Judas:

Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. (Lk 22:3)

Satan actually entered into him. I could imagine that the same thing is going to happen to the so-called antichrist.

Open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. (Acts 26:18)

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph 6:12)

That is the evil dominion of darkness that covers over the earth. 1 Jn 5:19 says it is the prince of the world who holds people in captivity. One of the greatest areas of darkness is claiming to know Him but not seeing. Those who claim to see, their sin will remain forever and ever, as Jn 9:39 says. That is what He came to do:

And Yahshua said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." (Jn 9:39)

That means that He will do it through us in these last days. That is what we desire to do in this paper,¹ to set people free from the dominion of darkness. We desire to do this with all of our heart.

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Lk 21:24)

Until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled, which is the time of the nations, when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. There is going to be a great influx of the people of the nations who will be saved. That is what it is speaking about in Rom 11:25. Then it will be given back to the natural seed of Israel in the next age. But first of all Isa 49:6 has to be fulfilled. It is the light that exposes the darkness to the end of the earth.

Only a twelve-tribed nation in different geographical locations on the earth can do this. Light to the world can't come about by one little community in twelve different trailers.² We have to be in different lands where there are governments that we can pray for.

¹ The second issue of *It Takes a Community*, which turned out to be two freepapers.

² Speaking of another little group claiming to be the twelve tribes.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. (Rom 13:12-13)

Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons. (Ps 107:10)

They were prisoners in misery and chains, in darkness. This is supposed to stimulate within us compassion, that we could open blind eyes.

To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. (Isa 42:7)

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Sovereign is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Sovereign will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isa 60:1-3)

All of this can happen through Isa 49:6 and nothing can happen unless Isa 49:6 happens first. Ps 18:28 is first for us, for we have to be enlightened first. Somehow, we have to be enlightened. So many people are in darkness. They are in theological darkness.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Ths 5:4-8)

The Orient

Lk 1:78 talks about the orient, the dawn from the east.³ It will give people the proper orientation. Before you do anything, you have orientation meetings. You get your eyes set on the east, you might say, as people do in the morning. They look to the same

³ Dayspring is #395, *anatole* (from 393); a rising of light, i.e. dawn (figuratively); by implication, the east.

place, to the dayspring from on high. Otherwise everyone is looking in different directions.

Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Lk 1:77-78)

Yowceph Rodriguez – You always orient the beehive facing the sun. They need that orientation. When the bees fly to flowers and back, their orientation is always the sun. This is when they come back during the day. It is always according to the sun.

David Derush – I had beehives up until last year. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I had to move a hive once in the middle of the season. The bees flew back to where the old hive was and they couldn't find it. They flew around and around until they died, looking for their hive.

That makes you want to cry.

David Derush – That is how it was in the Jesus Movement. They were oriented towards something that was very close to the truth — the community ministries. Then the communities closed and the leaders moved back into the middle of Christianity with a few different trappings like modern music and casual clothing. So many of the disoriented sheep wandered around until they died, looking for the hive where it once was.

Hakam – That is a parable for this time. “Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us...” (Lk 1:78). The only hope to give light to the darkness is the revelation of our Father that our Master spoke of in Mt 18:16. That is the *dayspring*, meaning we have to turn to the east and find that revelation every day (Jn 14:21). As long as we do that we are going to give light to those who sit in darkness. Also, our feet will be in the way of peace. That is why the fruit always will be unity. The only reason there will be a lack of unity is that we have lost our peace. Love goes first, then joy, peace, etc.

Our Master was speaking about Christian theologians, to apply it today, when He spoke about the blind leading the blind that both fall into the ditch – into darkness (Mt 15:14). How many have fallen into the ditch through blind theologians?

To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. (Isa 42:7)

Has that really been done, or is it going to be done? Is that the next age or this age? It has to be done, doesn't it? Our Master came to fulfill all prophecy. Has He done that one yet? No, but He will, through us, His Body. We will do greater things than He did – if He can give His Spirit to us (Jn 14:12).

What does “sit in darkness” mean? Maybe it means they are sitting and waiting in the darkness until the light comes because they can't do anything else.

Ha-êmeq – It is hard for me to grasp prison. For me, it would be a terrible place to be, because of all the bad people there. That would be the thing I would like the least. But that doesn't seem to be what he is talking about, but people in chains, sitting in darkness. Alanah sits there, locked in prison, not deserving to be there. It's hard to relate to that, but our Father knows what it means to suffer and to wait.

Our Father looks down and sees the prisons people are in. There are those who need to be locked up because they have done bad things. People in prison are usually “sorry” and only want “to serve God” – until they get out. As soon as they get out you never hear from them again. They just wanted to live for themselves.

We can't think of prison that way, but as a breaking free – a whole change of life – as in Lk 1:77. It is the most beautiful thing I have ever heard, the dayspring dawning. John the Baptist was going to open the way for Yahshua. He went before Him. The Spirit of Eliyah has to come again to communicate to people who is serving God and who isn't.

Shemuel – It was almost heartbreaking, Ps 107:10, when you think of how prisons used to be. They were in total darkness, in filth, and someone came in with a torch and told them they were going to lead them out. So they followed the torchlight, but as time went on, the torch began to fade and its light went out, and the people were still in prison and still in chains. That is how the Jesus Movement was. It was the first light in years.

Those people have been so damaged by the religious movement. Are their hearts broken beyond remedy? Our gospel has to be convincing to them. Our light can't be darkness, as the light of the Jesus Movement was. The only way is if our life matches up to our gospel.

Hakam – I remember talking to the man who owned the downtown deli in Chattanooga. He had this big office that looked out over the city. I told him that he did a really good job on this building. He asked, “Do you know why I do the things I do?” I told him *no*, and he said, “Because I have no idea

what I should be doing with my life.” To me, that is an example of sitting in darkness, for he doesn’t know what to do. All he has is his own life. He is waiting for something to give his life to.

They are like those bees just flying around, flying around until they die. They know the hive is supposed to be there but they don’t see it. They are flying around right now, but now all of them aren’t dead yet. All we can do is pray right now that our Father would put these papers in the hands of those people.

Nun – John said nothing came into being apart from Him. In Him was life, and that light was the life of men (Jn 1:3-4). When the day dawns there is no darkness anymore. Once it appears, that is it – the darkness is gone. In Him was life and that life was the light of men.

That is why the people are sitting in darkness, because it has never appeared. It has never dawned on them, because revelation was not given to them. Yet when it breaks forth, the darkness cannot overpower the light. Light has amazing power.

Then Yahshua spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. (Jn 8:12)

Obviously, if we don’t have the light of life we are not following Him.

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. (Pr 4:18)

We have to walk in the light as He is in the light, then we will have fellowship with one another (1 Jn 1:7). The only way we can have fellowship with Him is to have it with one another. When you lose your first love, the lampstand is removed out of its locality. After that, there is no way that anyone can be saved. The lampstand has to be kept standing.

And now says the Sovereign, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (for I am honored in the sight of the Sovereign, and My God is My strength), He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (Isa 49:5-6)

Therefore, that is the Twelve Tribes of Israel, which has to be a Body, a nation.