

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Humanities/Physics

Lesson 7 Physics

DEVOTIONS: JOHN 8

John 12:35-36 *Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.³⁶ While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. KJV*



References throughout the Bible use “light” as a symbol of God’s presence, goodness, truth, and divine guidance. In contrast, darkness is a symbol of evil, sin, and ignorance. There are few words that carry this much symbolism. Christ himself is the “light of the world.” Light is unique in its power to transform.

John 8:12 *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have light.”*

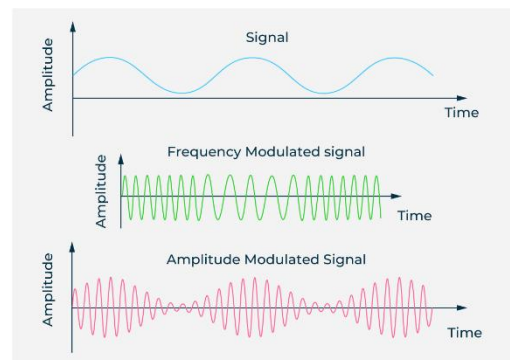
For a scientist, light is the premier investigative tool. We need light to illuminate, observe, diagnose, identify, and “fingerprint.” Atoms and elements interact with light giving evidence of their identity. Scientific lab devices such as spectrophotometers and colorimeters use light emissions and absorptions spectra to fingerprint substances. A simple blood test can diagnose illnesses based on the unique way light interacts with electrons of an atom.



Other methods, such as Xays (short-wave, high energy light) use specific wavelengths of light to penetrate our skin and muscle. These images detect broken bones, misalignments, or other disorders. Like God, an x-ray sees what’s on the inside not just what’s on the outside. Many other forms of radiation and electromagnetism are used in diagnostic medicine.

Radio and microwaves (long-wave, low energy light waves) go through us, through our house, and through most buildings carrying signals to specially designed receivers. These light waves carry coded messages that interact with tiny circuits and chips.

Like God’s Word, light is able to pierce joint and marrow. It can even carry the Gospel message around the world. Unlike God’s Word, however, today’s communication methods can be used to promote anti-Christian worldviews and philosophies as well as godly messages.



Light's interaction with matter is a natural phenomenon, created by God. How we choose to harness its power is a human dilemma. Just as light shines on both the Christian and the non-Christian, God's Word can fall on fertile or barren ground. God's light may harden hearts or melt hearts. Although parallels between light and God abound in scripture, it's essential to recognize that the way we interact with God's Word is always a personal choice.

THEME: I SAW THE LIGHT

PROVERBS 29:18 *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

The saying, "I saw the light," is often quoted when a new belief or understanding replaces an old. Light brings clarity that darkness is unable to provide. As we explore the properties and uses of light, it becomes evident that electromagnetism can be leveraged for hundreds of purposes. Nothing revolutionized the modern era more than the knowledge of LIGHT, but always beware of the "angel of light" that comes to deceive.

Learning about "light" is a scientific quest; however, the pursuit of knowledge without vision or wisdom is much like feeling your way out of dark cave. You'll miss the beauty of the cave due to the limitations created by darkness.

HOSEA 4:6 *...my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*

TIMELINE/Introduction (History): The Modern Era

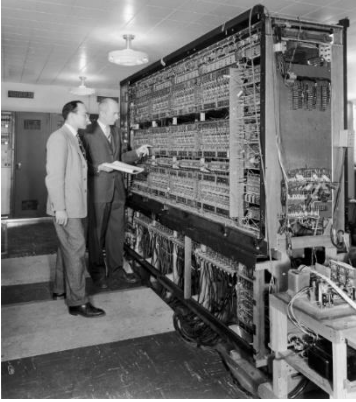
Jeremiah 31:35 *This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night...*

While inventions increased exponentially in the Modern Era, the last two centuries have far exceeded any previous centuries in history. Once the moveable-type printing press (by German inventor, Johannes Gutenberg, in 1455) enabled mass publishing, the expansion of knowledge flourished.



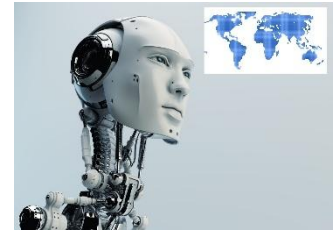
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Other inventions such as steam and coal powered engines, railroads, and the mass production of cars were key to the Industrial Revolution. Telegraph, telephone, radio, the light bulb, the AC electrical current and the electrical grid, radar, and computers led to the Information Era of the 20th Century. Man's ability to capitalize on the properties of electromagnetism, or light, and the invention of computers fueled the progress into the Information Era and the new millennium.



In the 3rd millennium, AI (Artificial Intelligence) will be integral in the inventive cycle. Though created by humans, AI's superhuman power stems from its ability to access the collective mind of man. With humanism dominant in our scholarly works, and the absence of God in research, science, and philosophy, secularism will guide AI's reign. (Secularism is defined as separation from religion and God.) Our future will likely parallel that of Babel in its attempt to reach heaven without God.

Robots of many shapes, sizes, and purposes are being deployed to replace their human counterparts. The possibilities are nearly limitless. Where will our spirit of ingenuity, invention, and leverage lead us and at what point will we decide that human wisdom must be guided by supernatural revelation and vision? These are questions only godly men and women can answer. It's important to be informed, be ready, and to REMEMBER the pitfalls of the past.



GOT-IT/Apologetics:

Psalms 18:28 "You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light."

Not only do we need light, but every element on earth is a product of light. Though man has only understood the process for a short time now, harnessing light has transformed our entire way of life. From static electricity to nuclear power (that releases gamma radiation/light), light exposes the possibilities and wonders of our world.

In **Genesis 1:3**, God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. This statement is profound. Why is this important for apologetics? The first recorded words God spoke to create our physical world, "Let there be light," is a powerful revelation. Light is foundational to the formation of elements – the building blocks of our universe. Biblical writers didn't understand this when they recorded God's Word – Moses didn't know it. Yet, this simple statement assures us that "supernatural intelligence" inspired the Bible.

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We know more about God's creation because light reveals it to us. The metaphors used throughout scripture, comparing light to darkness, or the power of light to reveal truth, have even deeper meaning when the amazing properties of light are exposed. Light has produced the Information Age and will fuel the Age of Artificial Intelligence. Our challenge remains, however, to be the light on the hill and not hidden under a bushel basket.

MATTHEW 5:14-15 *You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.*

REFLECTION/Devotion:

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... 6-7a For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

These verses were written long before Christ was born, before the wisemen sought Him, before the Church Age glorified His Coming. Jesus is known by all these names. He is the ruler of the Kingdom of God and Heaven that has no end. The light of the world has dawned and darkness is expelled for all those who “see” the light.

I SAW THE LIGHT, and what it revealed – a better way of knowing. Science (*scientia* – Latin for “a way of knowing or knowledge”) is a way of knowing. Spiritual revelation, however, is considered a higher way of knowing. Someday, everyone will SEE THE LIGHT and discover this higher way of knowing; but, someday may be too late for those who refuse to listen now. There is no greater role for light than revealing truth and dispelling darkness.

Acts 26:18 *...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'*

REMEMBER THESE THINGS/Devotion:

We often use a “light bulb” as a symbol for a new idea or understanding. A simple electric light bulb in a dark closet or room can make all the difference in finding something you need to find. Darkness is the absence of light. Darkness is NOT an entity itself. It cannot exist where Light rules. Light expels darkness in a way that fills and overcomes that which is empty or lacking.



John 1:5 ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*



Robots may be made in our likeness, but they're far from human. Humans are made in God's image. We have the breath of life, unlike a robot that runs on batteries and electricity. Their circuit plates, binary code, and computer language may mimic the amazing brain, nervous system, and thought abilities humans possess, but they do not possess a complex soul or spirit. Although Artificial Intelligence can process a greater amount of data faster, it will never have free will, self-awareness, or the ability to tap into a true consciousness.

Psalms 18:28 “You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.”