



# LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS – Light for the Future 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

## Connect:

1. Our theme over Christmas has been, 'Let there be light'. What is light for?
  - Jesus said that He was the light of the world. and then on another occasion He said, "You are the light of the world". In other words, responsibility had been shifted to us.

## Engage:

2. Read [Isaiah 60:1-3](#)
3. In the context of the Bible, the light we speak of is **spiritual light, understanding, wisdom knowledge**.
  - Isaiah 60:1-3 speaks of a future event and requires some thought:
4. Who is it written to?
5. What is it written for? What's its purpose?
6. What does it mean to us today?
7. Does it have the same purpose for us as for those it was written to 700 years ago?

## Framework:

- Isaiah 60:1-3 was written to Israel. It was to tell them that one day, after a time of great distress and darkness (that we can read about in the preceding chapters), God will bring great light.
- It is telling them that one day the Messiah of Israel will return and deliver them from darkness, and this deliverance will be so dramatic, so amazing, so global even, that all of the nations of the world (described here as the Gentiles – which just means non-Jews) will want to come and see it. (So, this is speaking about a future world event, one that will impact the whole world.)
- Its purpose is to give us all a glimpse of the future of this earth. That a global event is coming which will transform the geopolitical, global economic, and social structures of this world. It will be a time when nothing will ever be the same again.

- This is not just about Israel. God does not show favour to anyone, but He has chosen Israel, weak and frail as they are, to demonstrate His faithfulness. God is a globalist – in the purist and perfect sense of the word. At not one point in world history has God ever ‘given up’ on this world. Some say He could have done but actually He couldn’t – right back at the beginning of our time man sinned. He broke the only rule God gave him. And, yet even as God gave out the just punishment that we deserved He made a promise. It’s something called the protoevangelium or Proto-Gospel. A promise that one day He would send someone to put what man had done wrong – right.
8. Read [Genesis 3:15](#)

**Down through the sweep of history God never gave up, He made ways for man to be in relationship with Him. Ways that sin could be dealt with to bring the barrier down between Him and us.**

**Ultimately it was through Himself – in the person of His Son Jesus that this would eventually be accomplished. He was the one spoken of in Genesis 3, who would crush the serpent’s head. Signifying the defeat of death itself. But also signifying a far future event when the enemy of mankind – Satan – would be finally crushed and defeated.**

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9. So where does that leave us today?  
10. What do we need to do about it?  
11. What is the light we have that we have to shine?  
12. What is it that we are pointing our torches at?  
13. Read [Hebrews 9:27-28](#)  
14. What are the two facts within the above scripture that we have to deal with?  
15. Read [Titus 2:13](#)  
16. Read [1 Timothy 4:8](#)

## **Conclusion:**

**For those who were foolish not to have heeded the warnings, to have ignored the call. It will be too late. The glory of God will be too much, there will be nowhere to hide and nowhere to turn – in the book of Acts the angels tell the disciples that He will return one day, physically.**

**Zechariah 14 tells us that His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. And then will begin the putting of all things right.**

**I have no idea how He will sort all this mess out. But then, He is God. He knows how to do it. But I know that I am looking forward to that day.**

**And until then, I am shining a light.**

**I am shining my lamp, my torch, Because Jesus told me that I am the light of the world. And my light is twofold:**

**Firstly, it should come from my life so that people look at me and say – why are you different?  
And secondly, it should come from my mouth – as I point my light towards Jesus and say – it's  
because of Him.**

**Let's make 2021 – whatever it brings – a time of hope – illuminated by the light of God in our lives.**

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**Prayer:**

*Dear Lord, help me to realise that I am called to be a light to the world and to follow in your footsteps; acting accordingly. In Jesus Name Amen*