

Short Sermonettes based on Scripture on the Origin of Light & Darkness, Good & Evil:

Isaiah 54:2-17

The Eternal Covenant of Peace

²“Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.
³For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.
⁴“Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;
⁵For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.
¹⁰For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,”
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
¹¹“**O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted,
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
and lay your foundations with sapphires.**
¹²I will make your pinnacles of agate,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your wall of precious stones.
¹⁶**Behold, I have created the smith
who blows the fire of coals
and produces a weapon for its purpose.
I have also created the ravager to destroy;
¹⁷no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed,
and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord
and their vindication (or righteousness) from me, declares the Lord.”**

Isaiah 54:11

“O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.

God is building a life for each one of us that is "Rock Solid". He wants our gifts shown Brilliantly and with slender. He wants us to Shine and Sparkle as we are held up to the Light. Our setting (antimony) is Durable and Mighty and it displays God's Faithfulness to us. Now that is Antimony!

Antimony: the sense is not that the stones would have fair colors, but that the **cement (antimony)** which would be used would be that which was commonly employed to **make the most valued colors. The structure (antimony)** which would be reared would be as costly and magnificent as if the very **cement** of the stones consisted of the most precious coloring matter; used also for flame proofing material (ex. components and function of the prongs on a Brilliant Wedding Ring).

Ecclesiastes 7:14-18, 29

*“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? It is good that you should **take hold of this** and from that **withhold not your hand**, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them . . . See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”*

Here we find that **God has made both prosperity and adversity**, that man may not be at any certainty concerning future events, but may live in a dependence upon God and be ready for whatever happens. In fact, God instructs us here to “take hold” of each circumstance (prosperity or adversity), as well as, “withhold not your hand”, which defined is to “**take hold of**” or “**take possession of**”, like beams in a wall that hold a wall in position. In essence, **owning our prosperity and our adversity for the glory and purposes of the Lord, without doubt that God is in the Midst of those circumstances and Working them for your Good, and ultimately His Glory**. But here we are, most importantly, given the driving force to make it through both circumstances, the “**fear of God**”, which *defined* is “**awesome**”,

“awesome acts”, “awesome things”, in simple, those who stand in “AWE” of God in the midst of both prosperity and adversity, that they WILL Escape or Be Freed from all of them, in spite of their not knowing their outcome. As it is defined, Becoming Known, as we “Go” and as we “Come Out” that God is “Revealed” and “Unveiled” in and through our lives, as the Light of the World that He is calling us to Be, declaring “God’s Good Works” and not our own.

Further, in **Isaiah 51:14**, we read, “*He who is bowed down shall speedily be released . . .*”, which we understand here that the “Exiled” will soon be set free, or better being described as “**the Wanderer being practiced, skilled, trained, taught to be set free**”. The word “bowed” defined is “one who is stooped under a burden, tipped over for the purpose of spilling or pouring out”. Therefore, those who submit to being practiced, skilled, trained, and taught to be set free through their circumstances, like a water pitcher, which's purpose is to serve and bring Refreshment, will see their Freedom “Speedily”, fully equipped for every good work (**2 Timothy 3:17**), in bring about the Glory of God in all the Earth.

Together, through these two portions of Scripture, we learn from the Lord that He alone creates Prosperity and Adversity for the purpose of demonstrating His Glory and Might in and through each one of our lives, if we would only allow Him to use us, as we were created, “Bowed” with the following purpose, “**And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.**” *“My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,”* **Isaiah 32:17-18**. The net result of all things, therefore, should be “Peace”, “Quietness”, and “Trust Forever” as God’s chosen people, those who have answered the Call (“*For many are called, but few are chosen,*” **Matthew 22:14**, or “*few have actually answered the call*”), His royal priesthood, His Light in the World, without doubt or fear, and complete and fully equipped for His “Awesome” works, that He might be “Revealed” and “Unveiled” in and through our lives, the Light of the World.

“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace (well-being), and create evil (calamity): I the LORD do all these things.”
Isaiah 45:7

INSIGHTS TO "NIGHT SHINES AS DAY" **Psalms 139:12**

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”
Matthew 5:14

“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; he who follow Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the LIGHT of life.”
John 8:12

Lights in the World

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, AMONG WHOM YOU APPEAR AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD.” **Philippians 2:12–15**

The Seven Lamps

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and say to him, WHEN YOU SET UP THE LAMPS, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.” **Numbers 8:1-2**

Proverbs 20:27: “A LAMP OF GOD, the soul of man.”

The spiritual significance of the commandment of lighting the menorah is that one should be a “lamplighter” who ignites that latent potential within “the soul (soul: spirit – the breath of God, divine inspiration) of man, a lamp of God” **Proverbs 20:27**.

In **teaching and influencing a fellow Believer**, the objective should be to establish him or her as a self-sufficient luminary: to assist in developing their talents and abilities so that their lamp independently glows and, in turn, kindles the potential in others.

The flame surges upwards, as if to tear free from the wick and lose itself in the great expanses of energy that gird the heavens. But even as it strains heavenward, it is already pulling back, tightening its grip on the wick and drinking thirstily of the oil in the lamp, oil that sustains its continued existence as an individual flame.

The wick, if ignited, would flare briefly and die, utterly consumed. As for the oil, one would find it extremely difficult to ignite at all. But when wick and oil are brought together in the lamp, they produce a controlled and steady light.

The soul of man is a lamp of God whose purpose in life is to illuminate the world with divine light. God provided us with the “fuel” that generates His light — the Torah and its commandments, which embody His wisdom and will and convey His luminous truth.

The divine oil requires a “wick”, a physical body (physical minds that study it and comprehend it, physical mouths that debate it and teach it, and physical media that publish it and disseminate it) to channel its substance and convert it into an illuminating flame; **but for the divine will to be manifest in our world, there must be physical hands that actualize it and physical materials with which it is actualized.**

To realize its role as a “**lamp of God,**” a human life must be a lamp that combines a physical existence (the “wick”) with the divine ideas and deeds of Torah (the “oil”). When the wick is saturated with oil and feeds its spiritual yearnings with a steady supply of the same, the resultant flame is both luminous and sustainable, preserving the existence and productivity of the wick and illuminating the corner of the world in which it has been placed.

“love the Lord your God... for He is your life” **Deuteronomy 30:20.**

Our lives are rendered into burning lamps, alight with flames that waver from heaven to earth and back again and illuminate the world in the process.

Therein lies the specialty of the commandment of kindling the lamps of the menorah in the Holy Temple. Every commandment generates light.

Every morning, a priest filled the menorah’s seven lamps with the purest olive oil; **in the afternoon,** he would climb a three-step foot-ladder to kindle the menorah’s lamps. **The seven flames** burned through the night, symbolizing the Divine light which radiated from the Holy Temple to the world.

When the Kohen (priests who serve in the Temple) came to kindle the menorah’s lamps each afternoon in the Holy Temple, he found them fully prepared for lighting: earlier in the day, the lamps had been cleaned and filled with oil, and fresh wicks had been inserted. **All he had to do was bring near the flame he carried, so that its proximity to the waiting lamp would unleash the potential for illumination which the lamp already holds.**

Therein lies an important lesson to the spiritual lamplighter: do not think that you are achieving anything that your fellow could not, in truth, achieve on his own; **do not think that you are giving him something he does not already possess.** The soul of your fellow is a ready lamp, filled with the purest oil and equipped **with all that is required to convert its fuel into a blazing flame. It only lacks the proximity of another lamp to ignite it.** **If your own soul is alight, its contact with another’s soul will awaken its potential for light, so that it may illuminate its surroundings and kindle other souls, in turn.**

It is written, “If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,’

‘Nor does **DARKNESS** obscure for You; the night shines as the **DAY**, **DARKNESS IS AS LIGHT.’” Psalms 139:12**

DARKNESS (darkness: figuratively – misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness)

DAY (day: luminous, glorious)

To the Church in Ephesus

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.** ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’ **Revelation 2:1-7**

God warned that He might remove the lampstand of a congregation if they continue in sin and refuse to repent. As Jesus told the church at Ephesus: “I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.” **Revelation 2:5**

Those who are His followers continually grow in obedience, love, joy, and peace, becoming more and more like Jesus.

It is therefore, that love, joy, and peace that shines forth through a dark and dreary world like a beacon of hope. It makes others desire the Source of that goodness.

1 John 2:6

“whoever says he abides in him ought to **walk in the same way in which he (Jesus) walked.**”

Hebrews 12:14

“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord.”

When a person builds a house, he makes the windows narrow on the outside and wider on the inside (a picture of a life **without** God), so that the light from the outside should optimally illuminate the interior. But when King Solomon built the Holy Temple in Jerusalem he

made the windows narrow within and wide without, so that its light should emanate to the outside and illuminate the world (a picture of a life **with** God).

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

"He said to me, '*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*' . . . *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*"

The deepest need that you and I have in weakness and adversity is not quick relief, but the well-grounded confidence that what is happening to us is part of the greatest purpose of God in the universe – the glorification of the grace and power of his Son – the grace and power that bore him to the cross and kept him there until the work of love was done. That’s what God is building into our lives. That is the meaning of weakness, insults, hardships, persecution and calamity.

“God Appointed the Thorn of Satan for the work of Salvation.”