



WOW: Word Of the Week

Darkness

April 13, 2022

Easter Sunday approaches. We hope for a sunny day. Sunrise services should see the sun rise! To celebrate that the Son rose! Easter Sunday breathes light, speaks of life, celebrates light.

To see the light clearly, let's talk about the dark. I found 143 OT occurrences of this word, only 57 NT occurrences. Surprising, averaging barely over 2 occurrences per NT book.

In the OT, in the very beginning of creation, darkness was over the deep, and creating God separated darkness from light. In Exodus 20, in the giving of the Ten Commandments to Israel, the text notes that God existed in a deep darkness; Deuteronomy 4-5 say that God spoke out of that darkness. In Psalm 22, God lightens the darkness. In Proverbs, there are only four occurrences of the work—the wicked walk in darkness. Most of the OT references are to literal darkness in the physical world.

In the NT, John 1 tells us that light came into darkness and the darkness could not overcome it (extinguish it, put it out, stand it, comprehend it). In the coming of Jesus, the people in darkness can now see light (Matt. 4; the gospel of Matthew has 8 occurrences, the most of any NT book). Jesus gave warning about the dark: be careful that you are not overcome by darkness, fill your life with light. Darkness came when Jesus was crucified. Eternity will be perpetual darkness for the disobedient.

In Acts 26:18, we see that the gospel has power to turn people from darkness to light. Hearts, eyes, and minds can be darkened. The domain of darkness is overcome in Jesus (Col. 1). We are called to walk in light (Eph. 5, also in 1 John).

This week, our WOW! I examine darkness, so I can better appreciate and celebrate light. What can we say in summary about our brief journey through the Bible?

- Creation began with total darkness until God separated light out of the darkness.
- At Sinai, God spoke out of deep darkness to give light, and he called his people Israel to be a light to the nations.
- Yet darkness still exists, and many walk in darkness.
- In Jesus, darkness is forever overcome by the one who is light. The Daystar rises, the light dawns.
- Jesus's greatest glory was revealed in the darkness that suffocated the crucifixion scene.
- The darkness of death, encapsulated in the tomb, was declared impotent in Jesus' resurrection.
- Sunday came, and there was light—light and life that will never cease to promise hope.
- The gospel is God's power to turn us from darkness to light, to turn us from the domain of darkness, from darkened hearts and eyes and minds to enlightenment that comes to us in the face of the glory of God in Christ.

Here is the true victory of Easter. Not a day, not an hour and then back to normal. Not an annual celebration. Not a big splash, not a big party. Serious. Time to ponder, think, meditate. Time to decide. That you and I will commit to ever walking in the light, never being distracted by the darkness that is yet everywhere around us.