

JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION: Matthew 1 :13-20

I. There Is A Way that Seems Right Unto A Man

A. False Claims Of Being The Light Of The World

1. Antiochus IV Ephiaphenes

a. Daniel 8:9-12

1. He called himself the "Illustrious one"

2- He looked upon himself as incarnated manifestation of Olympia Zeus. b. He set up the Worship of Olympian Zeus in Jerusalem.

c. He offered a sow upon the alter in Jerusalem .

d. He killed over 100,000 Jews

e. Daniel 11:36-37

f. Antiochus was brought down Daniel 11:45

2. Herod Agrippa I

a. Acts 12:20-23

b. He was the brother of Herodias

c. He was a friend of Caligula and Claudius

d. Royal apparel

1. Josephus says it was a robe of silver tissue

2. Similar to the robe worn by Emperors

3. The sun caused the garment to glimmer and shine in dazzling

e. The voice of a god

1. To win his favor

2. Perhaps an announcement of peace between the kingdoms

f. did not give the Glory to God

g. was eaten of worms

1. Intestinal worms

2. Josephus notes Herod lingered five days before his death e.

3. The Caesars

a. They were worshipped for bringing peace and prosperity to the land

b. They were regarded as incarnations of deity, much like the Pharaohs and Ptolemies before them.

c. One of the centers of emperor worship was at Pergamos

Revelation 2:12-13 d. This encouraged the persecution of Christians (Pliny Letters 10. 96,97)

4. The Popes

a. He claims to be unerring "when he speaks ex cathedra (that is, when - fulfilling the office of the Pastor and Teacher of all Christians - on his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to held by the universal church)"

b. He claims the authority of an apostle

c. Consider these Popes

1. Liberius

2. Zozimus

3. Sixtus

4. Alexander

B. 1. Hinduism (India)

- a. Idol- worship, meditations, gurus
- b. Reincarnation
- c. The goal- is to master one's will
- d. The final destiny is to be one with Brahman

2. Buddhism

- a. Gautama the Buddha, founder
- b. The middle way, between sensuousness and asceticism
- c. The goal is Nirvana, a state of bliss
- d. It is a religion without a God

3. Taoism (the way)

- a. Tao is the Source of all being, Ultimate-reality.
- b. The teaching of Loa Tzu in the Toa Te Ching.
- c. The goal is to gain as enlightenment, a oneness with the eternal.

4. Judaism

- a. National Religion.
- b. They believe the law, but not the New Testament.
- c. Salvation comes by keeping the Law
- d. They missed the Messiah.

5. Islam

- a. Muhammad was the prophet of God (A.D. 571).
- b. His book is the Qur'an.
- c. The five pillars:
 - 1. confession of faith.
 - 2. Prayers – 5 times a day

3. Fasting – Ramadan
4. Alms giving – 2 ½ percent
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca.

6. Denominationalism

- a. Joseph Smith – Founder of the church of Jesus Christ of latter day Saints.
- b. Charles T. Russel – Founder of the Jehovah’s Witness.
- c. Mary Baker Eddy – Founder of the church of Christ scientist.
- d. William Miller – Founder of the movement of Millerism, The Seventh day Adventist.
- e. and others too numerous to count.

II. Jesus is the light of the World –John 8:12

Therefore, again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. He who is following me may never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.

A. He is the light because His good works.

1. Matthew 9:35-36
2. Luke 7:1-10
3. John 9:1-7, 32
4. Acts 10:36-38

B. He is the light of the world because of His Teachings

1. Matthew 1:12, 28-29
2. John 7:46
3. Mark 1:21-27

C. He is the light of the world because of his Love.

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13

2. John 15:9-13

3. Romans 5:6-8

D. He is the light of the world because in Him is found the forgiveness of sins.

1. Mark 2:1-12

2. Matthew 26:28

3. Like 24:46-47

4. Colossians 1:20-22

Conclusion:

John 1:1-13

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things became through him, and without him nothing became that has become into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light is appearing in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake {Or: comprehend} it.

It happened that a man came, having been sent from God, and his name was John. The same came to be a witness, that* he might testify concerning the light, that* all might believe through him.

That man was not the light, but came that* he might testify concerning the light. He was the true light coming into the world, the light which illuminates every man. He was in the world and the world became through him and the world did not know him.

He came to his own and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, he gave to them the authority to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born, not from bloods, nor from the will of the flesh, nor from the will of man, but from God.

