

The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 24 May 2026. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.

The Light Source of Heaven

Here at Redemption Baptist Church, we often sing the hymns *Take My Life and Let It Be, I Gave My Life for Thee*, and *Like a River Glorious*. These are just a few of the many beautiful hymns that were written by a frail English woman named **Frances Havergal**. From the time of her salvation at age 15 until her death at age 42, Frances had a deep love for the Lord; and in spite of her frequent health battles, which plagued her nearly every day, she did everything in her power to share the Gospel with people.

By 1879, Frances' health issues had become quite serious; yet, she continued to write hymns, and to travel to schools all over England, where she offered free Bibles to any children who would make the effort to memorise **Isaiah 53**. In fact, on the morning of 21 May of that year, she was in the process of arranging a tour of Ireland, where she planned to give out the Gospel to young people over here. Yet, even as she prepared to go abroad, she didn't forget her own hometown of Caswell Bay. She had resolved to talk about the Lord with every young person in her town; and that morning, she went out into town to do just that. However, a storm blew in from the Channel that day, and the weather turned very wet and chilly. On her way home, she caught cold; and soon, she was so sick, that she was dying.¹

Yet, far from being sad, Frances told her doctor that it was "splendid to be so near the gates of Heaven."² Her brother, who was sitting nearby, said, "You have talked and written a great deal about the King, and you will soon see Him in his beauty."³ As the hours went by, she was so excited about going to be with the Lord, that it was as though she were packing for the dream trip of a lifetime. She kept saying things such as, "Come, Lord Jesus, come and fetch me."⁴ At another point, she asked her sisters whether they thought that she would be "disappointed."⁵ By this she meant, "Do you think I'll live through this, and *not* get to go to Heaven just yet?" She drifted off to sleep; but a short while later she awoke and said, "I am lost in amazement."⁶ Then, with a weak voice, she sang a song that she had written, which says, "Jesus, I will trust Thee, Trust Thee with my soul: Guilty, lost, and helpless, Thou hast made me whole. There is none in heaven, or on earth, like Thee; Thou hast died for sinners—therefore, Lord, for me."⁷

At this point, the peritonitis that had inflamed her organs caused Frances to go into a fit of convulsions. However, after the convulsions had calmed down, and she was settled back in bed, she suddenly looked up, with an amazed look on her face. Her sister described it this way: "She looked up steadfastly, as if she saw the Lord. Surely nothing less heavenly could have reflected such a glorious radiance upon her face. For ten minutes we watched that almost visible meeting with her King; and her countenance was so glad, as if she were already talking to Him! Then she tried to sing; but after one sweet high note, 'HE--,' her voice failed, and her brother commended her soul into the Redeemer's hand."⁸

Frances Havergal certainly wasn't the first believer whose face glowed near the moment of death. *Many* saints have had a visible glow as they approached the border of Heaven. **Stephen** is a perfect example. As Stephen was preparing to give his last testimony before the Sanhedrin, the people in the council saw that his face looked like that of an angel. (In other words, his face had a heavenly glow.) Moments later,

just before he was stoned to death, God allowed Stephen to see into Heaven, and to see the Lord Jesus standing to honour him. Of course, the most famous example of a believer whose face shone was **Moses**. (And he wasn't even dying!) When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the tablets of the Law, his face was shining so brightly, that the people were scared, and asked him to cover his face with a veil! And why was his face shining? *Because he had been in the presence of the LORD up on the mountain!* Those who approach the presence of the King (whether near to death, or not) *will* glow, because He is the Light of the world. The title of this morning's message is ***The Light Source of Heaven.***

Read Revelation 21:23-25 / 22:5.

I. The Light in the New Jerusalem

One of the most amazing things about the city of New Jerusalem is its *light source*. After all, we're talking about a city that is more than 1,300 miles in length, width, and height! How would such an enormous city be lit? Well, here in **Revelation 21**, the Apostle John tells us that in Heaven there is "***no night***" at all, because God Himself lightens the city with His own glory! John also says that "***the Lamb***" of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is "***the light***" of the city. Christ isn't *one* of the lights: He *is* the Light.

Now, what does this tell us about who Christ is? It shows us that He is God! The Father and the Son are not two *different* lights: they are *one* Light, because they are two Persons in one Godhead (along with the Holy Spirit). It's just like what you learned in last week's message. Remember what John said in **verse 22**? He said, "***And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.***" In Greek, it literally says that God and the Lamb "**is**" the Temple. There are two subjects ("God" and "the Lamb"): yet, the verb is *singular*. Why? Because God is three Persons in one God! Christ is *distinct* from the Father; yet, at the same time, He is "***the fulness*** (or "completeness") ***of the Godhead bodily.***" The Father, Son, *and* Holy Spirit "is" the Light!

Throughout the Bible, we are told that God the Father is Light. For example, James calls Him "***the Father of lights.***" John says that "***God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***" Paul says that God the Father dwells in "***in the light which no man can approach unto.***" Yet, the Bible also says that the *Son* is Light. In the book of **John**, Jesus Christ is called "***the light of men,***" "***the true light,***" and "***the light of the world.***" In the Old Testament, the prophets foretold of Christ's coming; and they often referred to Him "***the light.***" In the book of **Isaiah**, Isaiah refers to the Messiah as the "***great light,***" "***thy light,***" "***a light of the Gentiles,***" and "***a light to the Gentiles.***" In **Malachi 4:2**, Christ called "***the Sun*** ("s-u-n") ***of righteousness.***"

Are you getting the idea? Every attribute that the Father has, the Son has, too. When David said that "***the LORD is my light and my salvation,***" he was speaking just as much of the Father as he was of the Son. Both the Father and the Son are "the Light." They are one in

power, authority, essence, and being. Everything that the Father and Son do, they do together; and this includes being the Light. Take the earthly Tabernacle, for example. On the day when the Tabernacle was dedicated, God filled the Tabernacle with the light of His presence; and the light was so dazzling, that Moses couldn't even enter the tent. The same was true 400 years later, when King Solomon dedicated the Temple to the LORD. God filled the Temple with such dazzling light, that the priests were not able to enter it. The same will be true in the future 1,000-year Kingdom, when the Temple in Jerusalem is re-built. In **Ezekiel 44:4**, we are told that when the future Temple is dedicated, "***the glory of the LORD***" will fill God's House.

Now, if God's glory in the *earthly* Temple was so brilliant that no one could set foot in it, what must God's glory *in Heaven* be like? It is a brilliance beyond our imagination! That is why there is "***no need***" for the sun or moon in the New Jerusalem. God *is* the Light of Heaven!

II. The lights in the new heavens

(Read Revelation 21:23-25 again.) The Scripture couldn't be clearer: **GOD** is the Light Source in the city of New Jerusalem. Yet, you'll notice that John didn't say that there won't *be* a sun or moon anymore. What he said is that there will be no "***need***" of the light of the sun and moon. So, what is John saying? He's saying that there *will be* a sun and moon; yet, the light from the sun and moon will be *unnecessary* in the city of New Jerusalem itself. Sunlight and moonlight will be insignificant in the heavenly city of God, because it will be overpowered by the awesome light that emanates from God Himself. *Outside* the city, though, a sun and moon *will* exist, and *will* give their light. Why? Because there will be an actual physical universe—a completely new one! Let's go to the book of **2 Peter**, and see what Peter says about the events that will lead up to the creation of the new heavens and the new earth. We will also see *why* a new heavens and earth will be necessary.

Read 2 Peter 3:10-13.

Let's break this passage down. First of all, in **verse 10**, Peter says that "***the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.***" Now, what, exactly, is the "***day of the LORD***"? Is it a single, 24-hour day? No. The Day of the LORD is a period of time, of a little more than 1,007 years in duration; and it will begin immediately after the Rapture (the catching up of all Christians to Heaven at the end of this church age). That's why Peter says that the Day of the LORD will come "***as a thief in the night.***" The Rapture of the New Testament saints out of this world will happen suddenly and without warning, just like a thief. Satan and his demons know this very well; and I believe that is why they are now moving world leaders to roll out this "alien agenda." The so-called "aliens" that are appearing to people, and abducting them, and giving them frightening messages about a massive, global shift in consciousness that is

coming, are nothing but demons masquerading as “extraterrestrials”; and they are grooming the world to accept the sudden disappearance of millions of Christians! The Rapture *is* coming, folks; and the instant after the Rapture happens, the Day of the LORD will begin. The first seven years of the Day of the LORD will be the Tribulation period; and during this time, God will pour out horrific judgments upon this world, to punish the wicked for their rebellion, and to call people to repentance. By the end of the Tribulation, most of the world will have died; but immediately after the Tribulation, Christ will come down from Heaven to earth, with all the saints and angels, and will set up a global Kingdom, which will last for 1,000 years. The 1,000-year Kingdom will be the *second phase* of the “Day of the LORD.” It will be a time of global peace and blessing, as Christ reigns from Jerusalem. But then, after the 1,000 years is up, God will destroy the entire universe with fire. The destruction of the universe will be at the *tail end* of the Day of the LORD; but it will still be *part* of the Day of the LORD. That’s why Peter says that “*in*” (or “during”) the Day of the LORD, the heavens will be burned up. There will be literally nothing left of this present universe.

By the way, maybe you are wondering how the “heavens” will “burn” and “melt.” We can understand our *atmosphere* melting, because we know that it is made up of matter; but will *outer space* “melt,” too? Yes! You see, scientists have come to realise, in recent years, that space actually does have “substance”! Scientists used to think that outer space was simply “nothingness”; but scientists are finally realising that space *is* “something.” Once again, we see the scientific accuracy of the Bible! The Bible makes it clear, from the first chapter of **Genesis**, that the heavens *do* have substance. This is why the King James Bible uses the word “*firmament*” to describe the “heavens.” The word “*firmament*” implies that there is actual “firmness,” or substance, to the heavens. Our English word “firmament” is translated from the Hebrew word *raqiya*, which means “expanse”; and this word has the idea of a hard, firm substance that has been hammered thin, and expanded. This Hebrew word *raqiya*, then, indicates that both the earth’s atmosphere *and* outer space have substance! It wasn’t until recent times, when scientists began to study black holes, that they began to figure this out. Don’t let anyone tell you that the Bible is unscientific, folks. It has taken 6,000 years for man to begin to understand many of the scientific statements in God’s Word!

But I digress. Let’s get back to this matter of the destruction of the heavens and earth. Here’s the question: *Why* does this present universe need to be destroyed? Because it is groaning under the curse of man’s sin. Adam’s choice to sin brought disease, decay, and death not only upon man, but upon all creation! In **Romans 8**, Paul says that “*the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*” In other words, this universe is decaying and breaking down. Scientists call this “the second law of thermodynamics.” *All* systems in nature wear out, wind down, disorganize, and eventually break apart. All non-living things wear down; and all living things die. Death afflicts not only man, but animals; and even celestial bodies diminish. All this is the result of Adam’s sin. “Pastor, you’re saying that animals and plants grew fangs and stingers, and suddenly had the ability to crush, poison, and

destroy their prey, all because of Adam's sin?" Yes! None of these things existed before man's fall into sin. Everything *was* "very good"—until man rebelled against his Creator.

You see, we've got to realise who God is. First of all, He is holy and just. His curse upon man and nature was right and just. Secondly, He is the all-powerful God, who is in total control of nature. He can reverse (or suspend) the course of nature at will. He "turned on" the lights in the heavens on day four of Creation week; and He can turn them "off" at will. He turned *off* the light of the sun in Egypt for three days during the ninth plague. He *greatly diminished* the light of the sun *all over the world* during the three hours of Christ's crucifixion. He will also *diminish*, and *completely turn out*, the lights of heaven *multiple times* during the future Tribulation period. God created a perfect universe, where there was no such thing as death or decay; but when man chose to rebel against God's law, God brought death and decay into nature. He caused animals to kill and eat each other, and to kill man. He caused the ground to be difficult to till. Now, during the 1,000-year Kingdom, God will slow down the death process, and people will live hundreds of years again, as they did before the Flood. **Isaiah 65:20** says that a person who is 100 will be considered an "infant." The ground will bring forth food abundantly. Also, animals will not harm each other, or man. Yet, as wonderful as the Kingdom age will be, it still won't be perfect. There will still be sin and death, even during the Kingdom age. For there to be a perfect universe again, as there was before the Fall of man 6,000 years ago, it will require the complete destruction of this present universe. And that is exactly what will happen!

Read Revelation 21:1-3. [Note that "*the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.*"]

In this Scripture, we see what God's ultimate agenda is. God's ultimate purpose is to create a new heaven and earth, where there is no sin curse at all. It won't be a universe built *upon the ruins* of the old one; it will be entirely new! After God destroys this present sin-cursed heavens and earth, He will create new heavens and a new earth; and in that new physical universe, the sun, moon, and stars will give light to the earth, and mark out days, weeks, months, and years, just as our present celestial bodies do. It will be a universe *like* our present one in many ways, except that there will be no death, decay, or "winding down." The new sun will run its course day after day, year after year, century after century, millennia after millennia, forever and ever and ever; and it will *never* wane or burn out! It will continue to give light to the new earth every single morning, for all eternity. Believers will travel in and out of the city of New Jerusalem (which will rest upon the new earth); and they will rule over that globe, and subdue it. For all eternity, God's people will enjoy the incredible beauty of a physical earth that has no more trace of the curse. God's saints will enjoy stunning sunrises and sunsets on the new earth, just as they did in this present earth; and every time they see the glorious sunrise, they will be reminded of their Saviour, the "Sun of Righteousness," who once came down into this darkened world, and gave spiritual light to sin-blinded eyes. The new

earth *will* have sun and moon, and day and night. Yet, in the city of New Jerusalem itself, it will be perpetual day; and God's people bask continually in the light of His presence! God revealed these truths to the prophet Isaiah 700 years before Christ's birth.

Read Isaiah 66:22-23 / 60:19-20.

Now, in light of all these things—in light of the fact that this universe will pass away, and that a new one will be created—how should we, as Christians, live our lives? *That* is the real question! It's fascinating to learn what the new heavens and earth will be like; but if we treat this merely as a "fascinating study," and don't allow it to reach our hearts, we've missed the point! These truths should compel God's people to *live* a certain way. Remember what Peter said in **2 Peter 3**? He said, "***Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?***"

Christian, God's plan for you on this side of eternity is to live a holy life of service to Him. The only thing you can do in this life that will matter one *iota* in eternity is to serve God, and live for Him. As you serve the Lord, you are laying up treasure in heaven. In fact, one of the ways in which you will be rewarded for your service to God is by being made to shine like the stars of heaven! The amount of glory that radiates from your resurrected body will be an indication of the amount of glory that you brought to God in your lifetime on earth. **Daniel 12:3** says, "***And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.***"

Christian, there is only one treasure that will survive the destruction of the cosmos (other than the souls of the redeemed): and that is the Word of God! Jesus said in **Luke 21:33**, "***Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.***" Think about that! How many days do you get up in the morning, go through your day, and work, study, and do other necessary things; yet, you never pick up your Bible and read it, or try to commit it to memory! Brethren, this Word is the only treasure that will last after heaven and earth have passed away! Why do we just let it sit on the nightstand, and not read it? This is the Word of God! It is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. God has given us this Book so that we might know how to live lives that are pleasing to Him! Christian, live your life in a state of watchfulness, as though Christ could return at any moment—because, in fact, He *could* return at any moment. The Sun of Righteousness is coming to take us to the glorious city where *He* is the Light of it! Are you preparing for that day, Christian? Are you walking in the Light?

III. The intensity of Heaven's Light

Throughout the Bible, light is often used as a *symbol* of righteousness and holiness; and darkness is often used as a symbol of sin and moral evil. Yet, there is nothing “evil” about physical darkness itself. In fact, God is the one who *created* physical darkness! In **Isaiah 45:7**, the LORD says, “***I form the light, and create darkness***”; and **Psalms 139:12** says that physical light and darkness are both alike to God. In fact, since God Himself *is* Light, and since nothing existed *before* He existed, there wasn’t even such a thing as physical darkness until *He created* darkness on day one of creation! In the first 24 hours of the Creation week, God brought the vast heavens into existence, by simply speaking the word; yet, at that point, the heavens were wrapped in complete darkness. However, God wasn’t finished with His day’s work. In the midst of the fathomless darkness that He had just created, God created a formless mass of water, which He called *eretz* (“earth”). Then, He gave *form* to the waters, by drawing them together into a spherical shape. And *then* God created *light* to illumine that blue orb of water. God said, “***Let there be light; and there was light.***” Of course, there was no physical sun, moon, or stars yet, because God didn’t create the heavenly bodies until day four; so where did the light come from? It came from God Himself! God wrapped *Himself* in light, and provided *Himself* as the moving Light source around the earth! In **Genesis 1:2**, we are told that “***the Spirit of God moved upon*** (literally, “above”) ***the face of the waters.***” Christ, the Creator of all things, and the Sun of Righteousness, began to circuit through the physical heavens that He had just created, and shone daylight down upon the blue ball called “Earth.” He literally stepped into His creation for three days, and acted as the earth’s first “sun”!

Read Psalm 104:1-2.

My friends, God is the Source of all light, both physical and spiritual. He doesn’t merely create light, and emanate light: **He is Light!** Yet, God “tones down” His glory for our sake. Why? Because we cannot abide the full light of His presence! Both before and after His resurrection, Christ radiated light from His Person, on a couple occasions; and the light that He emitted was greater than the light of the sun. Yet, apart from those couple occasions, Christ *hid* His divine glory from men’s eyes while He was on earth. As God, He has the prerogative to hide His full glory. There is even good scriptural reason to believe that in Heaven, Christ still does not manifest the complete fullness of His divine glory. Certainly no man in his *mortal* body could approach the infinite, ineffable glory of God’s face, and live; but it is likely that even in our resurrected, immortal, glorified bodies, we still wouldn’t be able to bear God’s full, unfiltered radiance. Even the Seraphim cover their faces with their wings to shade themselves from God’s glory, as they hover around His throne!

We will never fully comprehend the awesome, infinite light of God’s being. However, one thing is certain: everything about the New Jerusalem is a picture of God, and of His relationship with His redeemed people. The eternal light of God’s presence in the city of New Jerusalem is a perpetual reminder that in Him there is “***no darkness at all.***” The ceaseless “Sonlight” of the Son of God in Heaven is also a reminder that in Heaven, there is no presence

of sin in any of its citizens. **Revelation 21:27** says, *“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”* In other words, only sinless people can enter Heaven. Now, that is a serious problem, because we are *all* sinners, who have fallen short of God’s glory. How, then, can *any* of us enter that city of light? This brings me to our last point.

IV. The invitation to come to the Light

Read John 1:1-5 / 8:12 / 12:35-36.

My friends, Jesus is God in human flesh. He is the *“light of men,”* and *“the light of the world.”* He came into this world to purchase the gift of salvation for us, by dying on the cross for our sins, and rising again from the grave. He has paid the full price for our pardon, and has conquered death for us. He has already done everything necessary in order for us to be saved from our sin, and accepted with God. Yet, He will not force Heaven upon anyone. In order to enter the gates of light, you must make a choice; and that choice is to repent of your sin, and believe on the Son of God. You must believe on the Light while you can, so that you may become a child of Light.

I would ask: Are *you* on the path to that city of eternal light? The only way you may enter that city is to believe on the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* If you will repent of your sin and place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, He will come into your heart, forgive your sins, and fill your soul with His light. Judicially, He will remove all your sin, and will place *His* perfect righteousness on your account Book; and God the Father will accept you into His family. You will then embark on a new life, in which Christ is your Lord and Master; and He will guide your steps with the Light of His Word, and His truth. He will never leave you or forsake you; and He will keep you until the day when you stand before His presence, in the eternal light of Heaven. Then, on the Resurrection Day, He will give you a new, resurrected, glorified body, in which there is no sin nature; and in that new, sinless body, you will dwell forever in the presence of the One who died for you. All these things are offered to you freely; but you must accept Christ’s invitation. If you have not received Christ as your Saviour, I urge you to do so today!

Conclusion: This past week, my wife’s grandmother passed out of this world; and as she made that journey, her face shone with a certain glow, which others around her witnessed. Though she couldn’t smile on account of her dementia, her face had a noticeable sense of peace. Why? Because years ago, she turned from darkness to light, on the day when she believed on the Son of God; and at the moment of death, she went into the eternal light of His presence.

If you know Christ as your Saviour, you have the sure hope of one day passing into the eternal day of Christ's presence. But in the meantime, are you walking in the light? You've been called out of darkness into God's marvellous light; but are you *walking* as a child of light should walk? You can't lose your salvation; yet, it *is* possible for you to walk in darkness, whenever you choose to disobey the Lord, and not confess and forsake your sin. That is why the Apostle John wrote, ***"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*** Christian, you don't have to stumble around in the darkness anymore; so *don't* stumble in darkness! Keep your heart right with the Lord, so that His light may shine fully into every corner of your life. And as you do so, ***"Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."***

¹ Robert J. Morgan, *Preacher's Sourcebook of Creative Sermon Illustrations* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2007), p. 189.

² *Ibid.*, p. 190.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*