

LIGHT:

Light has fascinated man throughout the ages. From the very first fires to candles, oil burners, gas lanterns and light bulbs, people have developed and created light.

“The Light of the World” is one of the names Jesus called himself (John 10:12/John 9:5). No one before him had ever claimed this. There are some obvious reasons why we can call Jesus the Light of the World. He was the fulfilment of the prophecy given by Isaiah, *“Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows.” (Isa 9:2 / Matt 4:16).*

The thing is, even though God had sent messengers before, Jesus didn't come in the same way as any of those prior to him. He came in a way that was relevant to the people of his day. He didn't give his message by walking around wearing a yoke as Jeremiah; he didn't shave his head and divide the hair into three parts as Ezekiel was told to do. Jesus used everyday things and spoke an eternal message in a way that was understandable and relevant to the people of his day and age—he brought light into their darkness.

What does this mean to us? Light sources have developed and changed over the years yet they still serve the purpose of giving light. Likewise, Christians must change the way they bring light to the world.

In Matthew Jesus said, *“You are like light for the whole world”. (5:14)*.

Even though each new generation of lighting has been great and useful in its day, it is not as effective as the lighting we have today. I'm sure none of us use fires to light our homes - we may use candles for effect, but not to give light. I also doubt that anyone is using oil lanterns to light their homes either. Surely we're all using electric light bulbs of some kind. Why? Because even though the gas burner had its day, it's not the method for the day in which we live.

Just as Jesus brought an eternal message to the people of his day, in a relevant way, we too are supposed to bring the same message of hope and life to our generation in a way in which they can understand and relate.

Steve