

VISIT OF THE DAYSPRING FROM “ON HIGH”

Luke 1:76-79, John 8:10-12

In the above reference, Zacharias called Jesus the “**Dayspring from on High**” who comes visiting those in darkness and shadow of death. He came to guide our feet into the way of peace (KJV). Other Bible translations used the word “**Sunrise**” or “**Rising Sun**” instead of “**Dayspring**”. These words described what Jesus is to the world. Originally, Zacharias words about “*sitting in darkness and shadows of death*” gives the impression of a traveller overtaken by darkness of nightfall before reaching the place of safety or that of a prisoner in a dark dungeon awaiting execution. Daybreak to the first and amnesty to the second is a welcome development that brings joy, hope and the privilege of a new beginning. This is what the coming of Christ did to the world. He brought light to those in the region of darkness and shadows of death Mathew 4:12-17. Light glows, light shine, light reveals that which is hidden, light repels darkness. Light chases darkness away; so does Jesus in the life, home and community or nation of those who receives Him and for as long as He remains with them John 9:5.

Jesus still wanted to visit people today. He told the Laodicea church “..... *I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to Him and will sup with Him and He with me*” Revelation 3:20.

A new dawn of great potentials and possibilities begins in the life of those who receive Jesus into their lives and hand over every situation they face to Him. It can happen today and it will happen in Jesus Name!

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The emergence of Dayspring or Sunrise on earth
2. The beauty and glory of illuminated lives
3. The responsibility of illuminating others

1. The emergence of Dayspring or Sunrise on earth

Isaiah 60:2-3, 2 Timothy 1:9-10, Malachi 4:2

The fall of Adam plunged the world into darkness. Sin curses, disease, deceit, diabolical characters and imaginations, distress and death reigned unchecked in the life of majority in the world before Jesus came. Death sentence hangs on all mankind on account of sin, for all have sinned and come short of the glory

of God Romans 3:23; and the wages of sin is death Romans 6:23. Satan, because of sin, exercise control over men with consequent oppression, harassment, and intimidation 1John 3:8. He makes use of fear especially fear of death to handicap man, limits his potential and ability to achieve the best that God ordained for him Hebrews 2:14-15.

Like the morning light and rising sun crowns the earth and brighten everything upon which it shines, making the world around us come alive at the end of a dark night, Jesus came visiting this world and changed the gloominess of it to glow and glory. Jesus brought light and life, energy, power truth, warmth, love, hope of glory and transformation into the life of those who receive Him. Converted Gentiles abandoned their idols and superstitions. Those who use curious arts and magic confessed and show their deeds. An entire city like Samaria gained freedom from bewitchments by the likes of Simon the sorcerer.

The coming of Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecies that he Lord Himself shall rise up like a sun; the Sun of Righteousness to heal, save and deliver His oppressed people. Isaiah 9:2, 60:2, Malachi 4:2. Jesus is the true light, the light that chases darkness away. He is the one ordained by God to removes the shadows of darkness that threatened the peace of mind and survival of invaded lives. He is the rising sun that turns every adversity around, Let Him do it in your life today.

2. The Beauty and Glory of illuminated lives

John 12:36, Mathew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus came as a deliverer. He came as our guide. His presence, power, love, word, Name, Spirit, and grace confers enduring peace; peace with God, peace in our hearts, peace with our fellowmen, peace about our past, peaceful, peace-loving and peaceable life in the present and a guarantee of peace in the future both on earth and eventually in heaven. The scarcest commodity we need in the world today is peace. We only need to listen to the news or open the pages of newspapers to confirm that, It is an indication that Jesus is whom we need today more than anything else. When men come to Him, believe in Him, receive Him as their friend, accept His lordship, enlist into His service, maintain constant continuous relationship with and obey His word everything around them that seems odd and out of place begins to find their level. Notorious and injurious criminals become gentle lambs. Oppression, robbery, human sacrifice, infanticide, banditry, cultism, marital infidelity and

drunkenness begin to reduce in a community as those who practice them turn to Christ. Men begin to live honestly. They are more than eager to reconcile with those they have injured or hurt. Submission to Christ makes men better husbands, wives, children, neighbours, workers, and friends. Submission to Christ gives us a better world. Jesus is more of what we need today. We need more of His presence, power, love, word, Name, Spirit, and grace. If we invite Him today, He will visit us and accomplish these things in our lives.

3. The responsibility of illuminating others

Romans 13:12-13, Acts 26:16-18, John 5:35

Those who has been saved and delivered from darkness and the works of darkness have work to do. We are saved to serve. The Lord Himself calls believers the light of the world. What he is what He wanted us to be. He expects that our interaction and relationship with others will leave them better not worst. By the Lord's mandate and the Great Commission, we have the responsibility of spending the rest of our lives illuminating others and helping to guide their feet in the path of peace. It the only thing, if we do, will make the world to know that Jesus is alive. He is here.

Believers, most especially ministers are light bearers. We are to light up and brighten the world around us where we live and work - by attachment, commitment and dedication to the promotion of good morals and good works. Churches, denominations, mission agencies and fellowship exist for the purpose of making life better and worth living. We are to illuminate the world of communities, homes and nations in which we live and work. If this is not happening, it may be because the light bearers hid their lights or are giving in to seduction by forces of darkness and night. It may also be because we are getting distracted and becoming preoccupied with things of the world and things that confer no real lasting eternal value. Arise and shine today! Let the glory of the Lord rise upon you.

Jesus is the sunrise from on high, from God. The literal sun was designed to bring hope, help and fruitfulness to our lives, and rescue us from utter darkness. Life on earth will cease without the sun. We cannot and do not want to live without the sun; neither can we live without Jesus Christ. Invite Jesus Christ into your life today and hand over every situation and difficulty confronting you into His hands.

Jesus is the Light of the world; come to Him, believe in Him, receive Him as your friend, accept His lordship, enlist into His service, maintain constant continuous relationship with Him and obey His word. Your life will never be the same again.