

## ADVENT

### THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

*Deep Darkness Overcome By True Light!*

*“Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appeared ....”*

*“A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!”*

**Placide Cappeau, O Holy Night**

*“The light came down and cast the darkness away  
He appeared a helpless child, but The light of God came down  
There is a light, a new day dawning*

*Old things have passed, All things are now made new!”*

**Josh Garrels, The Light Came Down**

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer*

*Our spirits by Thine advent here;*

*Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,*

*And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

trans. **J.M. Neale**

#### I. The CONTEXT of Christmas: ***Long Lay the World in Sin and Error Pining*** **A World Steeped and Trapped in Deep Darkness**

A. The *Rule and Reign* of Sin

Genesis 6:5

Isaiah 64:6

B. The *Domination* of Sin from Adam to Moses....to Christ

Romans 5:12,14

#### II. The Sudden CHANGE of Context: ***A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices!*** **The True Light come into the World**

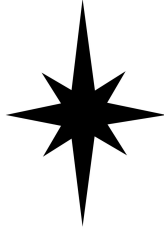
A. The *Light Come Down* from Heaven! **John 1:9**

B. The Prophet's *Portrait of the Redeemer* **Isaiah 9:6**

C. The Call to *Follow the Leader* **John 8:12**

**Revelation 21:23**

*Post Tenebras Lux*

**John 1:1-5, Isaiah 9:6**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
2 He was with God in the beginning.  
3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.  
4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.  
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Genesis 6:5**

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

**Isaiah 64:6**

All of us have become unclean, all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

**Romans 5:12,14**

Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—  
Death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses

**John 1:9**

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world!

**Isaiah 9:6**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**John 8:12**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Revelation 21:23**

The city (*New Jerusalem—Heaven*) does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp!