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# HEALING WORDS

P.O. Box 40, Libertytown, MD 21762  
301-829-1577

Winter, 2009

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## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

*By Philip C. Zampino*

Advent, from a secular point of view, means “a coming or arrival, as of any important event or person”. From a Christian perspective, it has to do with both the first and second coming of Christ, the anticipation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, and the anticipation of His second coming. In order for us to really understand the wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas, we need to grasp what it means to move from darkness to light, from light to darkness, and to anticipate light once again.

For years I have contemplated what it must have been like for God to have created the very first day, when the earth was without form and void. The Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters and God said “Let there be light...” At that moment light burst forth into what was to be our world when as yet there were no sun, moon, or stars. Ultimately God was and is the source of all light, radiant, glorious, all encompassing light.

When God created this world He pronounced it good, and He created the human race, both male and female, to live in this world and to have dominion in the earth. Most importantly, however, our first parents were to have intimate fellowship with God and each other and to populate the earth with a race of people who would also seek to have that same love and fellowship with God their creator, and with one another.

Adam and Eve walked in love, truth, and light. They were open and vulnerable to God and to one another. God provided for their needs giving them only one restriction that we are aware of, and that was to refrain from eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Not only did God want to protect them from evil, He wanted to give them the choice that would ensure they would walk in love. Love does not exist without choices. Where there are no choices there is slavery, control, and manipulation. God’s love would not permit Him to partake in any of the above because He is a God of love, truth and light.

At the creation of mankind, our first parents found this world to be a wonderful paradise, resplendent with the glory of God. They delighted in God, in each other, and in the animals, plants, sun and moon. Everything in the earth and the heavens above spoke of the wonder of God. It had to have been more than the human mind could comprehend, and yet they wanted more. Then something awful happened. The serpent, Satan, tempted the woman to eat of the forbidden fruit. Believing her eyes would be even more open to light and truth, wisdom and knowledge than they already were, she ate and gave the fruit to her husband and he ate. At this point sin, death, deception, fear and darkness entered into what was now no longer their perfect world and they tried to hide from God, but who can hide from all knowing, all encompassing light?

It was the lack of contentment, the human desire for more that caused Adam and Eve to face the choice that God knew they would have to face if they were to truly know the meaning of love. As they faced that choice, they sinned and rebelled against God, and the world was plunged into darkness once more. It was then they were cast from the garden, but not without hope and a promise which is found in Genesis 3:15. God spoke to Satan and told him that the day would come when there would be One who would come from the Seed of a woman and that Satan would bruise His heel, but He would bruise Satan’s head. Biblical scholars believe this is the first inkling of the Virgin birth and the suffering servant Messiah.

Countless generations went by, prophets, sages, priests and kings making their mark in history. There were times of war and times of peace. In addition, there were periods of loyalty to God and times of intense disloyalty. All of this was part of the period of great darkness. During these days Israel longed for and waited in the shadows for the Messiah. Many prophesies were given that pointed to the coming of the Holy One of God who would

*Continued on Page 2*

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## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

restore the children of God to their rightful place under His authority, and restore His Kingdom on earth. He would be the One who would restore the true light. Between the years 740 to 687 B.C. Isaiah prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the shadow of death, upon them light has shined." ( Isaiah 9:2) Sadly they did not understand the full nature of the prophesies and the restoration that the Christ was going to bring about.

Then about 2000 years ago in a limestone cave on the outskirts of a little town near Jerusalem called Bethlehem, a Baby was born. This was a very special Child. He was the answer to years of prophesies, prayers, hopes and expectations. The prophet Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah, and in his writings we read, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the one to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting."(Micah 5:2.) With the birth of this Child light was once again beamed into this dark world. "And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:5.) Of course we are talking about the birth of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world to redeem us from our sins and to fulfill His word spoken to Satan in Genesis 3:15.

So Jesus, the Light of the world, was now incarnate in the world. He was born of a holy Virgin and He grew to be a man. He walked the face of this earth and Scripture teaches us that He was tempted in every way as we are yet did not sin. He was fully God and fully man. This is a mystery in itself but He was in the world as the light of the world to restore light to a dark world. The angels rejoiced, the shepherds were amazed and wondered, and eventually even wise men from the east came to worship and to honor Him, the Light of the world, the Infant King.

But that is far from the end of the story. In the fifth chapter of Matthew Jesus told His apostles that they were the light of the world. You see, as Christians you and I who are baptized into Christ have the light of Christ living in us and we are to let that light shine until He returns to fill the whole world with His everlasting light and to fully restore the world to the Father's original intent.

When Christ was crucified darkness blanked the earth from the 6<sup>th</sup> until the 9<sup>th</sup> hour of the day. The battle raged between light and darkness. But in the end, on that first Easter, Christ and light triumphed. Now the war continues. It is a war of winning souls to keep them from darkness until Jesus, the King of Glory, returns to fully claim what He won on the cross so many years ago.

What we are now experiencing is a new Advent season. It is a season of waiting, hope, expectation, and labor as we wait as ancient Israel did. This time we wait for the return of the Messiah to establish His earthly Kingdom. Advent speaks to us therefore of two things. The first is the reminder of the darkness while Israel waited in anticipation of the birth of the Messiah. It anticipates Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. The Second Advent for our time is the waiting we are now experiencing as we anticipate the return of Jesus Christ to once and for all time establish His eternal rule and Kingdom.

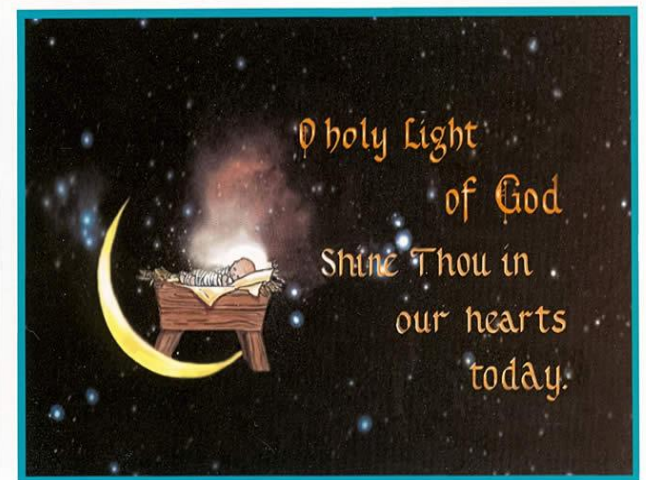
God bless you and have a wonderful and hope-filled Advent and a blessed Christmas.

### THANK YOU

My mother, Mildred Claire Zampino, passed from this life to the next on November 12, 2009 after a six month bout with leukemia. She was 89 years old. Always a strong Christian woman, she remained faithful to the end of this portion of her pilgrimage.

Throughout her illness she continued to share the salvation message of Jesus Christ to all those around her from medical professionals, to other patients, and to home care helpers. She was at peace at the end and was anticipating meeting her Savior, Jesus, face to face.

Jean, my Dad, and I thank all of you who have prayed, sent greetings, and condolences. You have strengthened us in our time of sorrow and we are very grateful.



## An Unveiled Heart

By Jean L. Zampino

Remember how Moses' face shone when he came down from Mount Sinai after visiting God? It was frightening to the people, so he put a veil over his face whenever he talked with the people. However, when Moses went before God, he unveiled his face and sought God face to face. He pleaded with God that He would show him His glory – and He did. There on the mountain Moses beheld the glory of God, and that glory was reflected on his face.

Our Lord invites all of us to meet Him as Moses did, with unveiled faces, with unveiled hearts, and to reflect His glory. Nothing should be in our hearts which would block our view of God and thus block our ability to reflect Him to a broken and dying world. We must work to pull down every sin, and insofar as possible keep our thoughts and intentions pure. We must appear unveiled before God.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor. 3:18). As we *behold* Him we are healed, and we *become* all He created us to be. Truly, “beholding is becoming.” Connie Boerner’s song, *Come, and Behold His Glory*, speaks beautifully of this:

Come, and behold His glory. Come, and receive His grace.  
We shall reflect His glory as we behold His face.  
Being transformed into His likeness, from glory to glory we change.  
So we come to behold His glory in this place.  
1988 Jabez Productions/CCLI #66696

Our relationship with the Triune God is one of both awe and intimacy, of friendship and fear. Job speaks of the days of his prime, “When the friendly counsel of God” was over his tent (Job 29:4). But then, after intense suffering, a deeper intimacy was born and Job said, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You” (Job 42:5). The eye of his heart was unveiled. Having unveiled hearts means that there are no walls or masks, no secret sins lurking in dark corners, but openness to God insofar as we are able.

Although we cannot enter the depths of heavenly worship until we enter heaven, we can participate in glimpses of it now. C.S. Lewis said, “Meanwhile, of course, we are merely tuning our instruments. The tuning up of the orchestra can be itself delightful, but only to those who can, in some measure, however little, anticipate the symphony” (*Reflections on the Psalms*).



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### Services

**Sunday Morning**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Bible Study Following**

**Christmas Eve**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Healing Services**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**December 15, 2009**  
**January 19, 2010**  
**February 16, 2010**  
**March 16, 2010**  
**April 13, 2010**

**In the event of inclement weather, please call the office at 301-829-1577 for service status.**