

In Your Light We See Light – A devotion for Advent

For Christians today, the light of the world has come. We have the privilege of living in a post-resurrection world; a world where we can walk with Jesus and bask in the grace of our salvation. What a marvelous gift!

The season of advent reminds us that this was not always so. After Adam and Eve, the world was plunged into darkness, broken by sin, and waiting with baited breath for the coming of the Messiah. This was the reality of daily life for Israel; thousands of years of waiting with hopeful expectation. Though Christ had not yet walked among them, God's extravagant love was ever present with His people, lighting the way through the darkness and offering a wellspring of abundance.

We are in a season of expectation once again as we await the return of the Messiah. Our world feels to us, surely, as dark as it felt to ancient Israel. Death, destruction, and chaos appear to rule the day. In Psalm 36, King David writes about the evil of his time and the wickedness of man. The people embraced wicked words, plotted evil, and lived with no fear of God. Sound familiar?

Yet, in this dark time, King David turned his eyes to heaven and was overwhelmed by God's priceless love. As I read the words of this Psalm, I am reminded of the darkest season of my own life, when I was a young woman running hard and fast from the things of God. How great was the darkness within me! But God's love for me was relentless; He pursued me and won my heart, and He continues to love me with an unending love, full of grace and rich in mercy. I was dead in my sin, and lost in the darkness, but His love brought me back to life and into His light. The words David used to describe the love of God are as true today as they were when he penned them:

*How priceless is Your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
They feast on the abundance of Your house;
You give them drink from Your river of delights.
For with You is the fountain of life;
in Your light we see light.*
Psalm 36:7-9

Sin ushered darkness into the world, but God's love is the light in the darkness. Advent falls during a season of short days and long, cold nights. Just as Israel awaited the birth of their Savior, at advent we remember their hopeful expectation and lift our own before God. As they basked in the warmth of God's love and promises, so do we bask in the unfathomable love of God's sacrifice for us. As they waited for their Savior, so do we await His return and the glory of eternity. God longs for us to step into the refuge of his wings, wrapped securely in His great love for us. We need not fear the darkness of this world, for in His light we see light.