

# Darkness

By Dave DeWitt



Most dictionaries define darkness saying something like “the partial or total absence of light.” The word *darkness* is used both physically (scientifically) and spiritually (metaphorically) in the Bible, and it occurs 145 times (in the NASB). So biblically, it is a significant issue.

## Darkness According to Evolution “Science”

Christopher S. Baird, Associate Professor of Physics at West Texas A&M University, wrote this:

Darkness travels at the speed of light. More accurately, darkness does not exist by itself as a unique physical entity but is simply the absence of light. Any time you block out most of the light—for instance, by cupping your hands together—you get darkness. In the context of talking about speeds, darkness is what you get after the light stops coming, and therefore travels at the speed of light.

[Professor Baird’s article was published June 20, 2013 [www.wtamu.edu](http://www.wtamu.edu)]

Earth Science says this:

Darkness is the absence of light. As far back as is currently observed, light was present at the very beginning of the universe, since the high temperature of all of space-time caused everything to glow.

Darkness was present only after the temperatures reduced enough. [[ck12.org](http://ck12.org)]

Astronomicca.com asks and answers this question:

What is stronger darkness or light? Which will win?

They say that darkness cannot win because light will always be able to penetrate it and cause it to cease to exist. [[astronomicca.com/2022/10/07/](http://astronomicca.com/2022/10/07/)]

The Missouri Creation Experience Museum has this comment about the origin of light:

So, where did the first light come from? It is said by some that light formed in the universe from the generation of stars like our sun, all streaming from the so-called Big Bang.

[[creationexperiencemuseum.com/light-vs-darkness/](http://creationexperiencemuseum.com/light-vs-darkness/)]

What about Black Holes? NASA says this:

A black hole is an astronomical object with a gravitational pull so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it. A black hole’s “surface,” called its event horizon, defines the boundary where the velocity needed to escape exceeds the speed of light, which is the speed limit of the cosmos. Matter and radiation fall in, but they can’t get out. [[nasa.gov/universe/what-are-black-holes/](http://nasa.gov/universe/what-are-black-holes/)]

## Observations about Darkness from the Bible

### 1. Darkness Was Created by God before He Created Light. So, Darkness Is a Separate Entity

- **Genesis 1:1-4**, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and **darkness** was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the **darkness**.*
- **Amos 5:8**, [The Lord] *made the Pleiades and Orion and changes deep **darkness** into morning*
- **Job 38:19**, *Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place...*
- **Joel 2:31**, *The sun will be turned into **darkness** and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*

Evolution “Science” says light existed (in the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago) before darkness, so darkness does not exist by itself as a unique physical entity but is rather the absence of light. Biblically, it is true that darkness is the absence of light, but that is not a good definition because darkness also exists as an independent entity. Actually, God created darkness first, then light. Notice, God’s question to Job seems to imply that darkness is not only the absence of light but a separate independent reality. God pointed out that Job did not know where light and darkness come from. But God’s question seems

to imply that darkness is not only the absence of light but a separate independent reality. Joel 2 describes a future time at the Second Coming of Christ where God will create darkness as something separated from light.

## 2. Darkness Is a Place which Is Dark In All Directions, Until God Creates Light In the Darkness

- **Genesis 1:14-19**, *Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. God made...the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the **darkness**; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.*

Evolution Science says light originated from the “Big Bang” 13.8 billion years ago. Today, however, many evolutionary astronomers are doubting the “Big Bang” theory, due to recent observations, such as those made from the James Webb telescope. The light in the universe is dying, not regenerating. Evolution “Science” says, when stars burn out, they leave behind darkness, which follows the end of the light traveling at the same speed of light. Since the speed of light is the speed limit of the universe, they conclude that darkness travels at the speed of light. But darkness is not something that travels or follows light. Only light travels at the speed of light. Darkness is separated from light by God, not by stars that burn out.” [earth.com › News › Science, September 17, 2024]

## 3. Sometimes Darkness Is Stronger than Light

- **Mark 15:33**, *When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.*

Evolution “Science” says light is stronger than darkness because light will always penetrate and overcome darkness. Biblically, and in some parts of the universe, this is not always true. Darkness can eliminate light. For example, this was the case with one of the plagues Moses put on the Egyptians (Exodus 10:21-22). *Also Joshua said, ...when they cried out to the LORD, He put **darkness** between you and the Egyptians* (Joshua 24:7). Also, darkness was stronger than light when Christ died on the cross (Mark 15:33), and it will be stronger at times during the tribulation before the Second Coming (Revelation 8:12). In the universe, Black Holes seem to be different from any other object in space, in that they are a form of darkness that overpowers light. Their “gravitational pull is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it.”

## 4. God Is Never In Darkness

- **Psalm 139:11-12**, *If I say, “Surely the **darkness** will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,” even the **darkness** is not **dark** to You, and the night is as bright as the day. **Darkness** and light are alike to You.*
- **1 Timothy 6:16**, *who alone possesses immortality and **dwells in unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*
- **1 John 1:5**, *... God is Light, and in Him there is no **darkness** at all.*

The context of Psalm 139 is David talking about the omnipresence of God. He says if he was in heaven or Sheol or in the remotest part of the sea, God is there. God is not affected by darkness. Darkness is compared to places David could hypothetically go. So, darkness is like a place, not just the opposite of light. But wherever God is, there is light. Paul said, *He dwells in unapproachable light*, and John said, *in Him there is no **darkness** at all.*

## 5. Darkness Can Be a Metaphor of Leaving the Path of Uprightness for Wickedness and Foolishness

- **Proverbs 2:13**, *From those who leave the paths of uprightiness to walk in the ways of **darkness**.*

- **Proverbs 4:19**, *The way of the wicked is like **darkness**; they do not know over what they stumble.*
- **John 8:12**, *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the **darkness**, but will have the Light of life.”*
- **John 12:35**, *So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that **darkness** will not overtake you; he who walks in the **darkness** does not know where he goes.*
- **Romans 13:12-13**, *The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of **darkness** and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.*

In Proverbs, Solomon used darkness metaphorically as wickedness and foolishness. The contrast in the context (of 2:13) is that of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Light is the path of wisdom, and darkness happens when someone leaves that path. Darkness can represent the sinful acts of this age, pictured as night waiting for daylight. The idea that the night is almost gone may refer to the future Second Coming or the eternal new Jerusalem. At any rate, there is a future time when sinful acts will be eliminated. Paul makes the point that, since we are of the light, we should put away the deeds of darkness.

## 6. Darkness Represents Sin from Both Our Own Evil Desires and the Temptation of Satan

- **Isaiah 5:20**, *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute **darkness** for light and light for **darkness**.*
- **Isaiah 9:2**, *The people who walk in **darkness** will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.*
- **John 3:19**, *“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the **darkness** rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”*
- **Acts 26:18**, *to open their eyes so that they may turn from **darkness** to light and from the dominion of Satan to God.*
- **2 Corinthians 4:6**, *For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of **darkness**,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Here, darkness represents the dominion of Satan. It is pictured as living with your eyes closed. Light judges darkness because darkness denies the truth, and light here represents truth (the way things actually are). Jesus was that truth, but men love evil because their deeds are evil. Isaiah condemns people who call evil things, good things. For example, in our day that might include evil things like homosexual marriage, feminism and the destruction of the family, moral and religious globalism, and abortion. They are evil things called good things. Here, Isaiah is referring to *the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali*, which are the tribes of Galilee. The light is the Messiah, who the New Testament calls Jesus Christ. The darkness is not having the truth revealed by Jesus.

## 7. God Creates Darkness In the Sense of Suffering

- **Isaiah 45:6-7**, *“...there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating **darkness**, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.”*

God told the Persian King Cyrus (45:1) that there was no other God but Him. The Persian idols were nothing but stupid superstition. They could not create anything. But He, the God of Israel is the One:

- (1) *forming light* [*forming* is a word used also in making pottery]
- (2) *creating darkness* [*creating* is the word used in Genesis 1:1 for creating the heavens and the earth]
- (3) *causing well-being* [*causing* is making, and *well-being* is peace, the Hebrew greeting “Shalom”]

(4) *creating calamity* [*creating* is also the word *created* used in Genesis 1:1, *calamity* is the very common word “rah” used for evil, diversity, affliction, calamity, displeasure, distress, sorrow, and trouble... (Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary)] God does not create evil, but He does create diversity, affliction, calamity, displeasure, distress, sorrow, and trouble.

## 8. Darkness Can Be a Perverted World View

- **Matthew 6:23**, *But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*
- **1 John 2:11**, *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

Darkness in 1 John is a metaphor for sin, which is anything contrary to the character of God. If you think you can live in sin and have fellowship with God, you are lying to yourself. In Matthew 26, Jesus tells us that when we see things through the lens of a certain view, we will interpret everything according to that lens. Darkness here is an evil perspective.

## 9. Darkness Can Represent a Place

- **Matthew 8:12**, *but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Jesus used the *outer darkness* phrase three times (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). It always referred to the place of judgment for unbelievers. Here, darkness is something used by God to bring about justice. Outer darkness may refer to a place on the dark side of the new earth where the light of the New Jerusalem will not reach them.

## 10. Jesus Is the Light of Revelation In a Dark Ignorant World

- **John 8:12**, *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”*
- **John 12:35**, *So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.”*
- **John 12:46**, *“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”*

Darkness here is foolishness which ultimately leads to death. Light is revelation displaying perfect wisdom and understanding, which Jesus displayed as He walked on the earth.

## Summary Conclusion

The Bible differs from evolutionary “science” in that, according to the Bible:

1. Darkness was created by God before He created light. So, darkness is a separate entity.
2. Darkness is a place which is dark in all directions, until God creates light in the darkness.
3. Sometimes darkness is stronger than light.
4. God is never in darkness.
5. Darkness can be a metaphor of leaving the path of uprightness for wickedness and foolishness.
6. Darkness represents sin from both our own evil desires and the temptation of Satan.
7. God creates darkness in the sense of suffering.
8. Darkness can be a perverted world view.
9. Darkness can represent a place.
10. Jesus is the light of revelation in a dark ignorant world.