

Notes on John 1:5

Compiled by Dustin Smith, PhD

*“And the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

1:5

John 1:5 says in regard to this light, “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” The same expression, paired together with God’s creative and powerful word, recalls the Genesis creation (which was already explicitly alluded to with the “In the beginning” reference in John 1:1a):

- 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. (Gen 1:2-3)

Furthermore, a similar parallel, particularly involving the brightness of Lady Wisdom and her victory over a dark evil, can be observed within Wisdom of Solomon. In fact, it is almost certain that John’s Gospel has been directly influenced by this very passage:

- She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against Wisdom evil does not prevail. (Wisdom 7:29-30)