


1  **“The Manifestation of Life”**
[John 1:4-5]

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6  **What Does It Mean To Say:**
“In Him was life...”?

John 20:30-31 - “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

7  **Other prominent examples throughout John’s Gospel**

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John 5:40 “... you refuse to come to me to have life.”

9  **Other prominent examples throughout John’s Gospel**

- **John 10:28 “... I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”**

10  **Other prominent examples throughout John’s Gospel**

- **John 10:10 “... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**

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“In him was life...” also refers to the fact that Jesus Himself is the source of all life because He possesses essential life in Himself [i.e. self-existent, eternal life; un-derived immortality - cf. I Tim. 6:16]!









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In contrast to the rest of creation, says Roger Fredrikson:

“The Lord God has breathed into [mankind] His own breath of life. An intimate, personal act which sets man apart, making him uniquely responsible to his Maker. That life is the source of reason, conscience, and the longing to love and worship - the light that makes us human.”

13  **This “life” which is in Christ is ‘distinct’ from earthly life in at least two ways**

- It is eternal!
 - “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” - I John 5:11
- Rom. 8:38-39 & John 10:27-29

- 14  **What does it mean to say that Christ is “the light of men?”**
- John 1:4 - “In him was life, and that life was the light of men...”
 - John 8:12 - “I am the light of the world.”
 - I John 1:5 - “... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
 - I Tim. 6:15-16 - “... God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen”
- 15  **It means that Jesus Christ is the only One who knows God the Father and who can truly make Him known!**
- Remember John 1:1 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God ...”
 - John 17:3 tells us that the very essence of eternal life is to “know” Him!
 - II Cor. 4:6 - “Light” is a universal image for the illumination of the mind through understanding! - Before Christ came into the world, the world was “in darkness” in the sense that it did not know God! When Christ came, God gave mankind “... the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
- 16  **“Light” is an appropriate term for the One Who makes the Father known!**
- Psalm 27:1 - “The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?”
 - Psalm 36:9 - “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.”
 - Psalm 105:1-2 - “... He wraps himself in light as with a garment ...”
 - I John 1:5 - “... God is light; in him there is no darkness at all ...”
- 17  **James Boice sites E. M. Blaiklock, who comments on how the absence of light leaves us without vision and without a view of reality**
- 18  **The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ into the world exposed the world’s darkness, ... even where men thought they had the most light.**
- “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness...” - John 1:4a
- 19  **The darkness could not overcome the light!**
- “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” - John 1:4-5
 - Three possible meanings of the word translated “understood”
 - “To seize” or “to apprehend”
 - “To overtake” (i.e. to overtake in a pursuit); or to “overcome”
 - “To quench,” “to extinguish,” or “to eclipse”
- 20  **“The thrust of this verse, then, is not that the darkness failed to understand the truth about Jesus; on the contrary, the forces of darkness know Him all too well.” - John MacArthur**
- Matt. 8:29 - “ ‘What do you want with us, Son of God?’ they shouted. ‘Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?’”
 - Mark 1:34 - At Peter’s house in Capernaum, Jesus “... drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.”
 - Luke 4:41 - “Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.”
- 21  **“The thrust of this verse, then, is not that the darkness failed to understand the truth about Jesus; on the contrary, the forces of darkness know Him all too well.” - John MacArthur**
- Luke 4:34 - “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”
 - James 2:19 - “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”