

[28] *For You do light my lamp; the LORD my God illumines my darkness.*

[Psalm 18:28]

Psalm 18:28 is one of my favorite verses in the Psalms. I say this because I love the verb *illumines!* *Illumines* is the Hebrew verb נָגַהַ (nawgah)¹ which has the meaning of ‘to shine’, ‘to illumine’ or ‘to illuminate’. It indicates ‘illumination’ the giving of LIGHT. It is used figuratively of the LORD who shines into darkness [2 Samuel 22:29; Psalms 18:28]. It is also used of the LIGHT of the wicked which goes out [Job 18:5]. It indicates God’s approval [Job 22:28]. It is also used of the LIGHT put forth by the heavenly ‘luminaries’ [Isaiah 13:10].

Now here is my wife Louise’s and my favorite function of this word is seen. It is when it is used of God ‘breaking in’ to ‘enlighten’ or ‘illumine’ His people about Himself and His gospel (good news). Listen to what Isaiah 9:2 teaches us,

*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land,
the LIGHT will ILLUMINE them.*

The psalmist who penned Psalms 119:130 adds,

*The UNFOLDING OF Your WORDS GIVES LIGHT,^(illumination)
it gives understanding to the simple.*

Then in Proverbs 29:13 we learn that,

*The poor man and the oppressor have this in common,
the LORD GIVES LIGHT,^(illumination) to the eyes of both.*

Listen to what Isaiah prophecies in Isaiah 60:19-20 where he said,

[19] *“No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you LIGHT^(illumination); BUT you will have the LORD for an everlasting LIGHT, and your God for your glory. [20] Your sun will set no more, neither will your moon wane; FOR you will have the LORD for an everlasting LIGHT^(illumination), and the days of your mourning will be finished.*

When Paul was on trial before King Agrippa in Acts 26, in Acts 26:16-19 Paul explains to Agrippa that on the Damascus road where Jesus appeared to him Jesus instructed Paul saying,

[16] *‘BUT arise, and stand on your feet; FOR THIS PURPOSE I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, BUT also to the things in which I will appear to you; [17] delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles (people of the nations), to whom I am sending you, [18] TO OPEN THEIR EYES so that they may turn from darkness to LIGHT and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’*

This idea of people from all nations turning “from darkness to LIGHT” is also seen in 2 Corinthians 4:6, where we learn,

FOR God, Who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” IS the One Who has SHONE IN

¹ “Illumines” is the Hebrew verb נָגַהַ (nawgah), which is Strong’s Hebrew dictionary verb number 5050.

our hearts TO GIVE the LIGHT of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

The Greek verb for illumine is only used once in the New Testament, which is in Ephesians 5:13-14.

^[13] BUT all things become visible when they are exposed by the LIGHT, for everything that becomes visible is LIGHT. ^[14] FOR this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will ILLUMINE you."

That is, He will shine His LIGHT upon us.

As I close Today's Thought, I ask you to hear what Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:9. Here Peter said, BUT you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, ² that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT....

Lord willing, I hope you will join me here again tomorrow, when we will begin a new series!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Will you please now join me in prayer?

Blessed Father God, I give You thanksgiving Today for teaching us that You *illumine our darkness*. I also praise You for teaching us that those *who walk in darkness will see a great LIGHT*, and that LIGHT will ILLUMINE both them and us. I give You both thanksgiving and praise for teaching that when we unfold the pages of our Bibles, the WORDS we read give us illumination of Your desires for us. For all these reasons, I give You thanksgiving in prayer in the Name of Christ the Lord. Amen!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE HE TELLS ME HE WILL ILLUMINE MY DARKNESS, AND THAT HE WILL ILLUMINE MY UNDERSTANDING OF HIS WORD, I WALK WITH HIM INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT! – tom

² Sited from Exodus 19:5-6.