



“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”
Psalm 84:11

The Sun

In Psalm 84:11, God compares Himself to the sun. Now, we need to move away very quickly from the false notion of many ancient cultures that believed the sun was a god. Having done so, we must now consider why the psalmist said, “...the LORD God is a sun.” This idea of God being like the sun is found elsewhere in the Bible. Isaiah hints at it in Isaiah 60:19-20. Peter describes the Saviour as the day star in our hearts. In Malachi 4:2, the Lord Jesus was described as the Sun of righteousness coming as a sunrise or dayspring from on high to visit us with healing in His wings (Luke 1:78).

Let us look at why this description of God as a sun is such a good one.

The sun is distant and yet so near. Using a rocket, it took man four and a half days to get to the moon, which is only 238,855 miles from earth, but the sun is a whopping 93 million miles away. Light coming from the sun takes over 8 minutes to reach us, and yet its warmth and brightness is so near. God, to many, may seem to be a distant character and yet, the warmth of His grace and brightness of His tender mercies are so near.

The sun is huge in comparison to earth. The sun is the largest object in

the solar system. Planet earth will fit into the sun 1.3 million times. With size comes power. The sun’s power is immense. Magnetic energy released from the sun’s atmosphere (called solar flares) is 10 million times more powerful than a volcano erupting, yet it only accounts for 10% of the total energy emitted by the sun every second. Pointing not just to the sun, but to the whole universe, God tells us that His ways are higher than our ways. God is all powerful and that power is extensive enough to forgive us our sins.

The sun brings about change. This is often the topic of conversation when people come back from holiday with a lovely suntan. When God comes into the life of a person, change should always be apparent. Growth and newness of life are all associated with the sun, and so it is with God. Paul rightly said, “...in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

Without the sun, scientists tell us that, within three days, all life on earth would cease to exist. However, more importantly, without God and without the sacrifice made by His Son on the cross we would never have the hope of eternal life. I wonder: are you trusting in the dear Sun of Righteousness today? ■



Look up the Bible references to help find the answers to these questions on the sun. Using the letters in the highlighted boxes, make up the second part of this word.

ANSWER: **S U N**

Which king tried, until the going down of the sun, to set Daniel free? (Daniel 6)

What happened to the seed when the sun was up? It was (Mark 4)

Where was Mary Magdalene going before the rising of the sun? (Mark 16)

Which city was Lot entered into when the sun was risen upon the earth? (Gen 19)

PRIZES!

Are you 12 or under?
Send your **answer, name, address and church** to:

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