



# The Writing in the Sand

*John 8:1-11*



They had seized upon this opportunity to secure His condemnation, thinking that whatever decision He might make, they would find occasion to accuse Him. Should He acquit the woman, He might be **charged with despising the law of Moses**. Should He declare her worthy of death, He **could be accused to the Romans as one who was assuming authority that belonged only to them.** (*DA* 460.5)



Now rising, and fixing His eyes upon the plotting elders, Jesus said, “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” And stooping down, He continued writing on the ground. (*DA* 461.3)



He had not set aside the law given through Moses, nor infringed upon the authority of Rome. The accusers had been defeated. Now, their robe of pretended holiness torn from them, they stood, guilty and condemned, in the presence of Infinite Purity. They trembled lest the hidden iniquity of their lives should be laid open to the multitude; and one by one, with bowed heads and downcast eyes, they stole away, leaving their victim with the pitying Saviour. (*DA* 461.4)



Jesus arose, and looking at the woman said,  
“Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no  
man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord.  
And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn  
thee: go, and sin no more.” (*DA* 461.5)



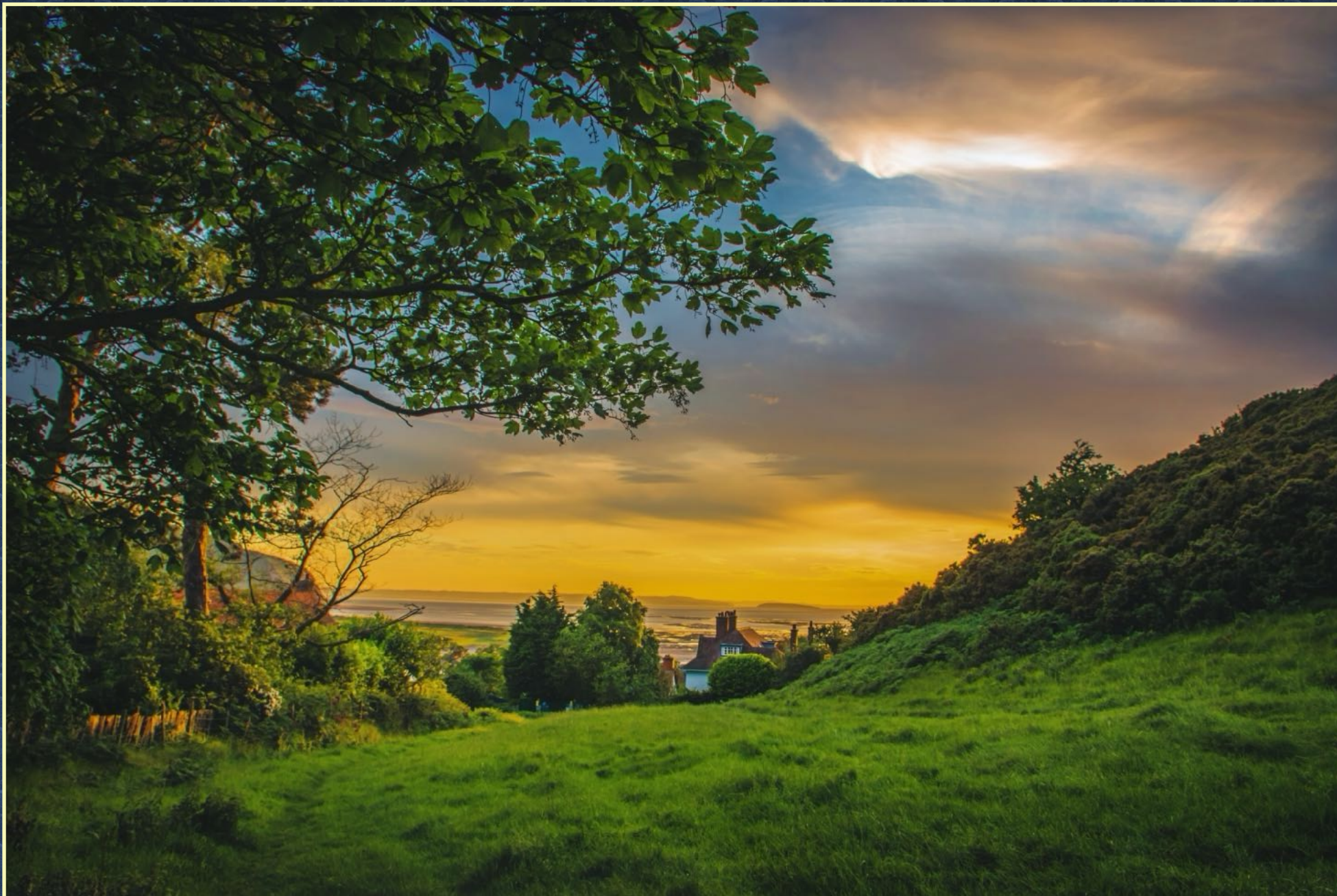
In His act of pardoning this woman and encouraging her to live a better life, the character of Jesus shines forth in the beauty of perfect righteousness. While He does not palliate sin, nor lessen the sense of guilt, He seeks not to condemn, but to save. The world had for this erring woman only contempt and scorn; but Jesus speaks words of comfort and hope. The Sinless One pities the weakness of the sinner, and reaches to her a helping hand. While the hypocritical Pharisees denounce, Jesus bids her, "Go, and sin no more."

*(DA 462.3)*



It is not Christ's follower that, with averted eyes, turns from the erring, leaving them unhindered to pursue their downward course. Those who are forward in accusing others, and zealous in bringing them to justice, are often in their own lives more guilty than they. **Men hate the sinner, while they love the sin. Christ hates the sin, but loves the sinner.** This will be the spirit of all who follow Him. Christian love is slow to censure, quick to discern penitence, ready to forgive, to encourage, to set the wanderer in the path of holiness, and to stay his feet therein. (*DA* 462.4)





# The Light of the World

*John 8:12*



# Light *phōs*: in contrast to darkness

- ✦ Physical sense—Acts 12:7; 9:3; 22:6
- ✦ Transcendent sense—1 John 1:7; Luke 2:32;  
Matthew 4:16
- ✦ Illuminates the spirit and soul—1 Thessalonians 5:5
- ✦ Makes something known—Ephesians 1:9



\* In him was life; and the life was the **light of men**. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (John 1:4-5)

\* *That* was the **true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. (John 1:9) (real, genuine)



God showed me the following, one year ago this month:—  
I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired his lovely person. The Father's person I could not behold for a cloud of glorious light covered him. I asked Jesus if his Father had a form like himself; He said he had, but I could not behold it; for, said he, if you should for once see the glory of his person, you would cease to exist. Before the throne was the Advent people, the Church, and the world.

*(The Day-Star, March 14, 1846, par. 1)*



I saw a company bowed down before the throne, deeply interested while most of them stood up disinterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus, then he would look to his Father and appeared to be pleading with him. Then a light came from the Father to his Son and from him to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light. (Ibid.)



Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it. Others were careless and did not cherish the light and it moved off from them. Some cherished it and went and bowed down before the throne with the little praying company. This company all received the light, and rejoiced in it as their countenances shone with its glory. Then I saw the Father rise from the throne and in a flaming chariot go into the Holy of Holies within the veil, and did sit. (Ibid.)



There I saw thrones which I had not seen before. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and most of those who were bowed down rose up with him. And I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after he rose up, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who rose up when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on him as he left the throne, and led them out a little way, then he raised his right arm and we heard his lovely voice saying, wait ye, I am going to my Father to receive the Kingdom. Keep your garments spotless and in a little while I will return from the wedding, and receive you to myself. (Ibid.)



And I saw a cloudy chariot with wheels like flaming fire. Angels were all about the chariot as it came where Jesus was; he stepped into it and was borne to the Holiest where the Father sat. Then I beheld Jesus as he was before the Father a great High Priest. On the hem of his garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Then Jesus shewed me the difference between faith and feeling. And I saw those who rose up with Jesus send up their faith to Jesus in the Holiest, and praying, Father give us thy spirit. Then Jesus would breathe on them the Holy Ghost. **In the breath was light, power and much love, joy and peace.** (Ibid.)



Then I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne. They did not know that Jesus had left it.

Satan appeared to be by the throne trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne and pray, My Father give us thy spirit. Then Satan would breathe on them an unholy influence. **In it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy and peace.** Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children. I saw one after another leave the company who were praying to Jesus in the Holiest, go and join those before the throne and they at once received the unholy influence of Satan. (*The Day-Star*, March 14, 1846, par. 1)



- \* Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)
- \* As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world**. (John 9:5)
- \* Then Jesus said unto them, Yet **a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light**, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, **believe in the light**, that ye may **be the children of light**. (John 12:35–36)
- \* **Ye are the light of the world**. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. (Matthew 5:14)



# The Father Is . . .

- \* The Father of Lights—James 1:17
- \* The giver of every good gift—James 1:17



# Jesus Is . . .

- \* The light of the world—John 8:12
- \* The light of men—John 1:4-5
- \* That lighteth every man—John 1:9
- \* His life is the light of men—John 1:4
- \* His words give light—Psalm 119:130; 119:105
- \* The true light—John 1:9; Matthew 24:24



# We are to . . .

- \* Called to this light—1 Peter 2:9
- \* Walk in the light—John 12:35; 1 John 1:7; Ephesians 5:8
- \* Believe the light—John 12:36
- \* Children of light—John 12:36
- \* Light of the world—Matthew 5:14
- \* Truth and light—John 3:21; Psalm 43:3



# However . . .

- \* Men love darkness—John 3:19; John 3:20
- \* Satan is transformed into an angel of light (*phōs*)—  
2 Corinthians 11:14
- \* The god of this world hath blinded the minds of  
men—2 Corinthians 4:4



- \* Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the **Father of lights** . . .  
(James 1:17)
- \* But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous **light**: (1 Peter 2:9)
- \* **Thy word** *is* a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105)



When He spoke these words [about being the light of the world], Jesus was in the court of the temple specially connected with the services of the Feast of Tabernacles. In the center of this court rose two lofty standards, supporting **lampstands of great size**. After the evening sacrifice, all the lamps were kindled, shedding their light over Jerusalem. This ceremony was in commemoration of the pillar of light that guided Israel in the desert, and was also regarded as pointing to the coming of the Messiah. At evening when the lamps were lighted, the court was a scene of great rejoicing. Gray-haired men, the priests of the temple and the rulers of the people, united in the festive dances to the sound of instrumental music and the chants of the Levites. (*DA* 463.2)



In the illumination of Jerusalem, the people expressed their hope of the Messiah's coming to shed His light upon Israel. But to Jesus the scene had a wider meaning. As the radiant lamps of the temple lighted up all about them, so Christ, the source of spiritual light, **illuminates the darkness of the world**. Yet the symbol was imperfect. **That great light which His own hand had set in the heavens** was a truer representation of the glory of His mission. (*DA* 463.3)



It was morning; the sun had just risen above the Mount of Olives, and its rays fell with dazzling brightness on the marble palaces, and lighted up the gold of the temple walls, when Jesus, pointing to it, said, "I am the light of the world." (*DA* 463.4)





The Pharisees therefore said  
unto him, Thou bearest record  
of thyself; thy record is not true.

*John 8:13*

*John 5:31-32*



# John 5:30-32

- ✦ Bear witness—can mean to testify favorably, speak well of, approve, as well as to simply provide information, favorable or not, about a person or an event concerning which the speaker has direct knowledge
- ✦ True—reliable, genuine, the true and genuine versus the appearance, has certainty and force, that on which one can rely



And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo **a voice from heaven**, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

(Matthew 3:16–17)



And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold **a voice out of the cloud**, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. (Matthew 17:1-6; also Mark 9:2-7; Luke 9:28-35)



And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast [this is most likely the Passover just before Jesus died]: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

(John 12:20-23)



Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. **Then came there a voice from heaven, saying,** I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

(John 12:24-28)



For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **And this voice which came from heaven we heard**, when we were with him in the holy mount. (2 Peter 1:17–18)



# The Relationship

*Between the Father and the Son*

*John 8*



- ✦ I am not alone—I and the Father—v. 16
- ✦ The Father beareth witness of me—v. 18
- ✦ If you know me, you know my Father—v. 19
- ✦ The Father sent me and is true—v. 26
- ✦ I speak to the world what I have heard of the Father—v. 26
- ✦ What my Father hath taught me, I speak—v. 28
- ✦ The Father is with me—v. 29
- ✦ I do alway those things that please the Father—v. 29
- ✦ I speak that which I have seen with my Father—v. 38
- ✦ I told you the truth which I heard of my Father—v. 40
- ✦ I proceeded forth and came from God—v. 42
- ✦ God sent me—v. 42
- ✦ I honour my Father—v. 49
- ✦ My Father honoureth me—v. 54
- ✦ I know my Father and keep his saying—v. 55



# The Relationship

*Between the Jews and the Father and the Son*

*John 8*



- ✦ Ye cannot tell where I came from and where I go—v. 14
- ✦ Ye don't know me or my Father—v. 19
- ✦ Ye shall die in your sins—v. 21
- ✦ Where I go you cannot come—v. 21
- ✦ Ye are of this world—v. 23
- ✦ Ye seek to kill me—v. 37, 40
- ✦ My word hath no place in you—v. 37
- ✦ If God were your Father, ye would love me—v. 41
- ✦ Your father is the devil—v. 44
- ✦ Ye do not believe me—v. 45
- ✦ Ye are not of God—v. 47



# The Jews' Response

*John 8*



- ✦ Your record is not true—v. 13
- ✦ Where is your Father—v. 19
- ✦ Who are you—v. 25
- ✦ We are Abraham's seed and were never in bondage—v. 33
- ✦ Abraham is our father—v. 39
- ✦ We have one Father, even God—v. 41
- ✦ You are a Samaritan—v. 48
- ✦ You have a devil—v. 48
- ✦ Art thy greater than our father Abraham—v. 53
- ✦ Whom makes thyself—v. 53
- ✦ Hast thou seen Abraham—v. 57



# Jesus' Final Declaration and The Jews' Reaction

*John 8:58-59*