

Scott's SCOOP

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The Light of the World, William Holman Hunt 1851

Jesus Christ is The Light of the World. In the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus is portrayed in His three-fold office of Prophet (Mark), Priest (Luke) and King (Matthew). The Gospel of John then presents our Lord as *“the true light that enlightens everyone who was coming into the world”* (1:9).

All four of these unique aspects of Christ’s life and ministry are well-represented in this 1851 masterpiece by Englishman, William Holman Hunt. He painted it after meditating on Revelation 3:20.

Here Jesus stands in a predawn orchard, which represents a sleeping soul ready for harvest. Christ is dressed as a Prophet in a white robe. He has a Priest’s breastplate and a King’s golden crown of thorns. He approaches in the darkness and brings a two-part light: the glow from His face offers the hope of salvation and the lantern represents the light of truth. The light falls on the door with its rusty hinges and surrounding weeds—the sin of humankind. There is no door handle, for the door must be opened by the person within.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

(Jesus, John 8:12)

“For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.... Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do in secret; but everything exposed by the light become visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’” (Paul, Ephesians 5:8-14).

Scott