

# The Darkness of Sin

by E.A. Johnston

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding the doctrine of the sinfulness of sin and its severe consequences for those who commit it.*

**Duration:** 21:16

**Scripture:** Luke 23:44

**Topics:** "Sin"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the destructive nature of sin and its impact on our families and testimony for God. The example of King David is used to illustrate the consequences of sin. Despite being favored by God and experiencing numerous blessings, David's sin led to destruction and chaos in his life. The sermon also highlights the darkness of sin as seen in the story of Samson, who lost his strength and became enslaved by the Philistines after breaking his covenant with God. The preacher emphasizes the need to understand the sinfulness of sin and to flee from it in order to avoid its destructive consequences.

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## Transcript

The Puritans preached often on the doctrine of the sinfulness of sin, yet it is a neglected doctrine today, for to study the nature of sin is to be familiar with our own wicked hearts and Satan, the enemy of our souls. Sin was the reason for the cross and the death of Christ, but there was a darkness associated with Calvary. This is seen in the Gospel of Luke chapter 23 and verses 44 through 45.

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour, and the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark state that at this time when Jesus cried out, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Like I said, there was a darkness associated with Calvary. It was an eerie darkness.

It was the darkness of sin. Here was the time when the sins of the world were heavy upon Christ on the cross, and the wrath of the Father was on Christ as he hung on that bloody cross. He was alone during this time, and it was the most intense time of his agony, for he suffered for the first time in his existence the turned face of the Father.

This was the darkness that veiled the awfulness of that hour. A holy God could not look upon sin, and he turned his holy face away from his beloved Son who hung in agony upon a scandalous cross as a substitute for sin. The passage states that darkness was all over the earth, not just in Jerusalem, not just

in the Middle East, but all over the earth.

And all the earth felt the judgment of hell that day, and all the earth sensed the pangs of a broken-hearted God over his suffering Son for wicked man's sins. There was a darkness over all the earth. The sun was darkened.

This was a time when normally the sun would be shining at its peak from noon to three o'clock in the afternoon, the sunniest part of the day. The Ethiopic versions render this passage, and when it was noon, the sun was darkened, and the whole world was darkened until the ninth hour. This darkness was a preternatural eclipse of the sun, for it lasted three hours, whereas a natural eclipse of the sun is but a short duration.

This eclipse was seen and reported by other nations as it occurred. It is reported that a heathen sought in Egypt and said, either the divine being suffers, or suffers with him that suffers, or the frame of the world is dissolving. Allow me to read you the commentary on the striking passage on this unusual time of darkness from the pen of the eminent scholar John Gill.

This darkness that was over the earth at the time of Christ's sufferings was, no doubt, in addition to them. The sun, as it were, hiding its face and refusing to afford it comforting light and heat to him, and yet might be a detestation of the heinousness of the sin the Jews were committing, and as expressive of the divine anger and resentment for God's purposes and decrees and the end he had in view, did not excuse nor extenuate their wickedness, as it shows also their wretched stupidity, not to be awakened and convinced by the amazing darkness, with other things attending it, which made no impression on them, though it did on the Roman centurion, who concluded Christ must be the Son of God. It was an emblem of the judicial blindness and darkness of the Jewish nation, and signified that now was the hour and power of darkness, or the time for the Prince of Darkness, with his principalities and powers to exert himself.

We see, friends, that this time of darkness, when Christ was on the cross, is a varied picture of the darkness of sin. The kingdom of evil is the kingdom of darkness, Satan is the Prince of Darkness, and sin is his evil tool to damn the souls of men and rob God of his glory. Oh friends, if we could only see the terribleness of sin, the awful blackness and darkness of sin, sin opposed to light, sin in opposition to a holy God, sin in the heart of rebellious mankind.

Before we proceed with our study of the darkness of sin, I would like to recommend two books to you. I strongly recommend their study, for they have been of immense help to myself and thousands of other Christians around the world. Please, go out and obtain these two books and take the time to read them, and you will better understand both Satan and his wiles and the nature of sin.

Both of the authors were Puritans. The first book I highly recommend to you is by Thomas Brooks. It is entitled *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*.

The second book is really two volumes in one. It is by William Grinnell, and it is entitled *The Christian in Complete Armor*. It is an exposition of Ephesians chapter 6, and I read it every day and obtain much value from it.

For we must study our adversary to recognize his devices against us, and we must be well familiar with the wicked windings of our own deceitful hearts, and we must thoroughly understand the doctrine of the sinfulness of sin so that we will flee from it and avoid it. I would like now to point out the next aspect of the

darkness of sin, and we must go back to the book of Genesis to see this aspect of the darkness of sin in judgment. In Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 and 2 we read, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Some scholars hold to what is called the gap theory. The gap theory states that Genesis 1-1 describes an original creation which was followed by the fall of Satan and great judgment. Genesis 1-2 is the supposed description of a recreation or restoration.

God saw the earth void with a darkness upon it from chaos and sin, and God in His Spirit brooded over it as a mother hen broods over her baby chick or a new mother who leans over the crib of a sick baby and her mother's heart broods over the condition of that sick child. This is the imagery here. Darkness overall because of sin.

A dark void because of judgment from God on sin. So this is a very picture of the doctrine of the darkness of sin. Whether the gap theory is correct or not I do not know, but I do know that when sin is mentioned in the scriptures there attends it a suggested veil of darkness.

This passage in Genesis alludes to darkness from judgment. In Genesis 3 which depicts the fall of man we see sin appearing as the darkness of separation of man and God where fellowship is broken, severed by sin. Darkness clouds the previous sunlit paths of Eden where God and Adam walk together in the cool of the day.

After the fall man no longer desires to walk with God but hides from Him because of sin. We find Adam hiding behind a tree hoping God won't see him in his disobedience from sin. Sin had cast a long shadow on man's close fellowship with God.

Adam answers a question in God and he said I heard that voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself. Afraid? Adam was never afraid of God before he sinned. Perhaps had he been more afraid of God before he sinned he may not have sinned but he rebelled against God's command and sinned and now fear grips his heart and he no longer desires to walk with God.

Harmony has been destroyed through sin and where there once was light now darkness casts its paw over that relationship. Mankind is now under the condemnation of God and must be reconciled to God or face eternal damnation because of the black, black, darkness of sin. A veil of darkness settled on the soul of Adam that day as he was cast out of Eden and out from close fellowship with God and every man born into this world has a natural inclination in his heart to rebel against God and the light of the gospel because of the darkness of Satan's kingdom and sin.

Let us look further at the darkness of sin as seen in the life of Samson. Samson was a man who could remove the gates of a city and carry them away on his shoulders. He could slay a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass with no more effort than shaking himself but a day came to Samson when he broke the trust and covenant of God in Judges 16 verses 20 through 21 states and she said the Philistines be upon thee Samson and he awoke out of his sleep and said I will go out as at other times before and shake myself and he wished not that the Lord was departed from him but the Philistines took him and put his eyes out and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with fetters of brass and he did grind in the prison house.

Samson experienced the darkness of sin as his eyes were pulled out and permanent blindness put him into a world of darkness he couldn't even see his hand in front of his face and this physical darkness had attached to it spiritual darkness for the text says the Lord was departed from him and we see that he is now enslaved by the Philistines with unbreakable chains of brass to do their bidding and grind their meal sin will make a slave out of you friend sin will blind you sin will make you a servant of satan oh the terrible darkness of sin our last example today from scripture on the darkness of sin is found in the life of king David when one studies the first 10 chapters of 2nd Samuel we see king David in a life favored by God God attends his victories God prospers David God makes David

king over Judah and king over Israel and gives him favor with the people and his enemies come to fear him God's hand is with David and multiply blessings and 2nd Samuel chapter 5 verse 10 summarizes this and David went on and grew great and the Lord God of hosts was with him we see that God was with David in these first 10 chapters of 2nd Samuel blessing him giving him victory after victory as he is the recipient of God's favor but then David takes his eyes off of God and sins in his heart while he stands on his roof lusting after the lovely Bathsheba as she bathes herself beneath the moonlight and in that moment the light of David's reason is blinded by sin and darkness enters his soul as a spiritual darkness befalls him as we see in chapter 11 and as chapter 11 speaks of material

bankruptcy in life we see the spiritual bankruptcy of king David played out in chapter 11 of 2nd Samuel as he commits adultery with Bathsheba and the sin of adultery which David commits is an aggravated sin in the sight of God because David is sinned against God's favor and blessings and this aggravated sin leads David on a moral descent into murder he murders the unsuspecting Uriah Bathsheba's husband and we read in 2nd Samuel chapter 11 verse 27 one of the saddest verses in the saddest chapter in the life of king David but the thing that David had done displeased the Lord the darkness of sin allowed David's conscience to excuse him rather than accuse him and he descends into one of the blackest periods of his life he still represents the people of God as their leader but his heart is

far away from God there is a long black shadow on his life now which will have destructive effects upon his own family and kingdom his daughter will be raped through incest his favorite son Absalom will turn against him and be killed the darkness of sin has cast a dark shadow over king David's family because the thing that David had done displeased the Lord David not only commits adultery and murder but he ends up being a thief because sin robs God of the glory due him oh the terrible darkness of sin and its consequences one has only to read Psalm 52 and hear David lament cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from me restore unto me the joy of thy salvation sin gave David fleeting pleasures but it stole his joy in the Lord and that's what sin does friends satan

is a destroyer satan is a deceiver satan is a divider he wants to divide us from God he wants to destroy our families and our testimony for God when the darkness of sin falls upon a man his reason is all gone it took Nathan the prophet to bring David to his senses with the story of the poor man and his little lamb listen to this litany of destruction and chaos which resulted from David's sin and listen also to the missed blessings which God withheld from David because of his aggravated sin and Nathan said to David thou art the man thus saith the Lord God of Israel I anointed thee king over Israel and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul and I gave thee thy master's house and thy master's wives into thy bosom and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah and if that had been too

little I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword and has

taken his wife to be thy wife and has slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house because thou hast despised me and has taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife thus saith the Lord behold I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house and I will take thy wives before thine eyes and give them unto thy neighbor and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of the sun for thou didst secretly but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun although king David repented of his sins and returned

to God with a broken heart he still had to live with the consequences of his sins the long shadow of the darkness of sin plagued him with a sword that God said would never depart from his house dear friends this doctrine of the sinfulness of sin is a terrible doctrine to behold if you wish to spend much time on it because of its unpleasantness but I must preach the full counsel of God and I must declare the sinfulness of sin in the allusion to the darkness of sin as I have laid out before you today let us never forget that sin does the following sin robs God of the glory he deserves sin withholds blessings from God on us sin renders us useless for present service sin breaks our intimate fellowship with God sin deadens our conscience so we can send further and fall into a deeper moral

decline sin shuts down our effectiveness as intercessors sin makes the bible a closed book before us sin ruins our testimony and witness and sin can bring harm to our families as the protective head from God is let down and sin makes us servants of satan sin is the devil's wrecking ball but most of all friends sin sent Jesus to the cross and our sins nailed him to that bloody tree sin is costly it costs Christ's very blood and when we sin we trample that blood it is my prayer that this message will keep you from sin and it will be an aid to you as you walk in holiness before a holy God who hates sin may the darkness of sin keep its long shadows from you as you serve the Lord with all your heart amen

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