

# Lenten Lights



Eight Biblical Devotions  
to Prepare for Easter  
by Noel Piper

**Word of Life**  
**Fellowship**

Text adapted from [www.desiringGod.org](http://www.desiringGod.org)

## Easter Sunday—April 9

[Begin with no candles lit.]

**HE IS GOD! He cannot stay dead. HE IS ALIVE. The true Glory of God shines in the world. The Light has won! The Eternal Light! The Bright Morning Star! The Light of the World!**

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”

[Light all the candles.]

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*

*(Taken from [Matthew 28:5-6](#); [Colossians 1:15-23](#); [1 Peter 1:3-4](#))*

**He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!**

## Good Friday—April 7

[One candle is lit before reading]

**This was the darkest day in history. The Son of God himself was killed by people who weren't satisfied simply to reject him; they couldn't stand to have him exist. They thought they could put God out of existence.**

And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him.

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

[Snuff the last candle. Do not light again until Easter.]

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

*(Taken from [Mark 15:22-24](#); [Acts 7:51-53](#); [Isaiah 53:4-6](#))*

## Supplies

Seven candles—any grouping

This devotional resource

## Using These Readings

Each reading begins with a few sentences that summarize the thought for the day. The rest is Scripture—letting God speak to us directly from his Word.

The readings will be used in conjunction with seven candles. On the first day, all seven candles are lit as you read the first devotion. Bracketed instructions within the reading tell you when to snuff out one candle. On the second day, six candles burn as you begin reading, and you snuff out one of them when instructed, and so on. On Good Friday, the last candle is extinguished. Then on Easter, there are instructions within the reading to light all seven candles.

## The Symbolism of the Seven Candles

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

The seven candles symbolize the Light of the World—the Light that is God's Son and that illuminated God for us—the Light that, on Good Friday, died.

As we move through the season of Lent, the candles are snuffed out one by one, until all are dark on Good Friday, when Jesus died and the earth was covered with shadow. Darkness apparently had won. The Light of the World had been extinguished. It was finished. At a terrible price, the wages of sin were paid in full.

**But Easter brings resurrection!** Life! Return from death! The Light has won and all the candles burn as we praise him—the Light of the World, the Bright Morning Star, the Savior of the world.

## Sunday—February 26

[All seven candles lit before reading]

God created the universe—from galaxies to water spiders. He created the breeze that calms us and the hurricane that terrifies us. All of it is to show us what he is like, to display his glory and personality. BUT people have let themselves be blinded to the truth. Some take all of God's creation for granted and say it just got there somehow—no need for God. Others worship the things that were created and don't see God behind it.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. . . . And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. . . . And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. . . .

[Snuff out one candle. Do not light it again until Easter]

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

*(Taken from [John 1:1-5](#); [Genesis 1:1-2:3](#); [Romans 1:18-25](#).)*

## Sunday—April 2

[Two candles lit before reading]

God made very sure that we could understand who he is, what he is like, and what he wants for us and what he wants from us. He did this by sending his Son, Jesus. Now we don't have just the written Word, we have the Living Word—a real person. When people watched and trusted Jesus, they were seeing and believing God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[Snuff the next candle. Do not light again until Easter.]

And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him."

*(Taken from [John 3:16](#); [Luke 2:6-7](#); [Isaiah 53:3](#); [Mark 10:32-34](#))*

Sunday—March 26

[Three candles lit before reading]

God wants to bless people. And the only way we can be blessed is by receiving his gifts. So he gave us his Word, his written Word, to make very clear to us where our life comes from and how we can receive great reward. BUT again and again we think our ideas are better than God's. And we turn from life to death.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

I [Daniel] prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

[Snuff the next candle. Do not light again until Easter.]

To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame . . . because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice.

*(Taken from [Psalm 19:7-11](#); [Daniel 9:4-11](#))*

Sunday—March 5

[Six candles lit before reading]

God created people to be perfect. And he created a perfect place for them—a place that reflected his goodness. He gave them everything they could need or want. BUT they listened to God's enemy. They didn't really believe God's gifts to them were enough for them. So they turned their backs on God, and they lost their perfect place to live and their perfect friendship with God. Now they could only see pain and futility and death in their future.

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. .... And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." . . . Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"... When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate....

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ..Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate".... To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children...." And to Adam he said, "Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life.... By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

[Snuff the next candle. Do not light again until Easter.]

Therefore . . . sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. . . .

*(Taken from [Genesis 2:8-3:19](#); [Romans 5:12](#))*

## Sunday—March 12

[Five candles lit before reading]

Usually God holds back his righteous anger over sin. When he lets it loose, it shows us how serious it is to turn away from God and toward darkness. It shows how great his wrath is against sin. Once he almost totally destroyed his creation. But he showed mercy through Noah.

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land...."

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God....And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh. . . . Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. . . .

[Snuff the next candle. Do not light again until Easter.]

"For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark.... And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.... He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground.... Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

But God remembered Noah.... And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.... The LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done...."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

*(Taken from [Genesis 6-9](#))*

## Sunday—March 19

[Four candles lit before reading]

Even before the world was created, Jesus was the Way, the Truth and the Life. But God didn't ignore his people until Jesus coming. No, he gave them a way to be forgiven. When they offered sacrifices from a heart turned toward God, by grace through faith in a coming Messiah, God forgave and restored them. BUT many people did not rely on God. They did not follow his way of sacrifice and repentance. Many followed the outward ritual, but they didn't trust God and his Word. They didn't love him. They didn't love the people around them.

The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD... he shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him."

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

[Snuff the next candle. Do not light again until Easter.]

"So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. And you shall say to them, 'This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.'"

*(Taken from [Leviticus 1:1-4](#); [Psalm 51:16-17](#); [Jeremiah 7:21-28](#))*