

Making God Bigger – Day 13

Jehovah Ori – God is My Light

Light seems like a simple concept. Even small children know light from dark. But a deeper dive into the qualities and properties of light show how complex it is and how appropriate as a name for God.

Wondering about those qualities, I looked it up and took most of the following information from the online encyclopedia, Britannica.

This resource stated that light is “electromagnetic radiation that can be detected by the human eye.” It goes on to explain that the full range of wavelengths in light go from gamma rays which are very small to radio waves which measure in meters. We can only see a narrow spectrum between 700 nanometers for red light down to about 400 nm for violet. The invisible waves of light are more powerful than those we see. As an example, most know that Ultraviolet B (UVB) rays cause a sunburn. X-rays take pictures of our bones through skin and soft tissue.

Light defies definition and the explanation and understanding of it has changed repeated throughout history. The electromagnetic wave theory was not sufficient to explain the properties of light at a very low intensity, according to Britannica. At that level, they explain, a quantum theory is needed to explain the characteristics of light and to explain it’s interactions with atoms and molecules. This theory explains light as packets of energy called “photons.” But that’s still not gasping the fullness of it! Quantum mechanics describes it as a wave *and* a particle. Now we have quantum electrodynamics (QED) which the encyclopedia describes as a combination of classical electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, and the special theory of relativity! While scientists believe this is the complete understanding of light, experience would seem to tell us there is more to discover!

Light is essential to life. It warms the earth and initiates photosynthesis required for plant life and the food chain, thus supporting life as we know it. It drives global weather patterns. It allows us to see clearly. Variations of light show space, distance, time. It is aesthetic as well as practical. It can be harnessed to do much good. We mishandle or misdirect it to our peril.

When David stated, “The Lord is my light (Psalm 27:1 NLT),” he was saying so much more than we ever imagine when we read this passage! Light is life, it is sight, it is power. We can never, with our human eyes see all that physical light can do and we will never see with physical eyes what God can do!

Light is simple enough for a child to recognize and appreciate, yet infinitely complex. It has been studied through the centuries, and we are still discovering its properties and uses. On an even grander scale, our God has made Himself easily seen, yet the knowledge of Him is inexhaustible!

Psalm 27:1

John 14:6

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