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V. 1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!

With these uplifting words, the prophet Isaiah addressed Israel and Jerusalem wallowing in darkness and ignorance. No one shall be prevented from also drawing from this source for their own soul or for the needs of God's people. It holds enough for all, who have for so long wallowed in gloom, burdened by the shackles of darkness. Verily, these words of Jehovah spoken from the prophet's mouth are all the more illustrious and valuable if we direct them at their actual recipient, the captive Daughter of Jerusalem. That's when they take on a meaning they would not have otherwise had. For they speak of a people – the chosen people – who through their own terrible fault, through the rejection of their own God and Lord in the form of a servant – indeed, all the more through the rejection of the spirit of Jesus Christ among his church in Jerusalem, has been subjected to the well deserved, terrifying judgment of ignorance. Over many centuries, the judgment of Jehovah, speaking from on high (Jes. 6, 9.10.) was fulfilled upon this people: "Go and say to this people: Keep listening, but do not comprehend;

keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears,

and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed."

For two thousand years, these words of judgment were exacted with scrupulous precision; a testament to all Gentiles of the unyielding stringency, the iron judicial severity of the God of Israel. As Paul admonished the Christians of the Gentiles: "behold then ... the severity of God toward them that fell. A hardening in part hath befallen Israel (..) For God hath shut up all unto ignorance" Romans, 11, 22.25.32. The fact that this gripping judgment of ignorance remains in force to present day and has not yet found its end, is plain and clear to all those who wish to see. But the prophet saw the end of the judgment. Through the Spirit, he may call to the judged: "Arise, shine,

come into the light!" The light is and has always been there. But Israel was blind to it. At first, it did not want to see it, then it was no longer able to see it. As it is written: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light... John 3, 19. The people whom God entrusted with his words; who alone carried in them the divine revelation; who were also appointed and charged to be a light for neighboring peoples - this very people descends into "utter darkness". They become obdurate. O that one wished to learn the powerful lesson that God bestowed upon Christianity, over which, for nearly two thousand years, the light

of God, in unprecedented abundance and clarity,
has risen. But also of this lineage is true what

once was said of Israel: the people love the darkness more than the light. That is why the judgment of ignorance upon Christianity is already inherent in its execution. It will also be cut off and cast away as are branches Romans 11, 21.22. God sends this ignorant people who, in their Christian enlightenment, boast that they rejected a love of truth. They believe the lie. They believe the tempting spirits and teachings of the demons. They allow themselves to be captivated by deceitful powers, signs and miracles. They quickly exhaust God's patience as the Spirit clearly predicted 2. Thess. 2, 9-12; 1. Tim. 4, 1.2.; 2. Tim. 3, 1-9.

But here, the Lord, who imprisoned Israel in ignorance, summons it forth into the light. For the light is there and the glory shines over you! Certainly, one will be ready to protest saying "but, the word has long been fulfilled!" For even 1900 years ago the light was already there; and from those days it is written: "We saw his glory" John 1, 14. It cannot be denied that the Prophet's words were indeed fulfilled in Israel. Indeed, there is no other basis or explanation for the abhorrent darkness which has gripped this people and which endures today. However, we would truly misunderstand the spirit of the prophecy if we wished to limit ourselves to seeing the coming of the light that brought Israel to fall and to be judged as the final objective of this prophecy. The entire language, tone, wording, color, implications that are drawn forbid us from doing so. The prophet's prediction does not vanish in the spiritual night that fell upon the ignorant people. No, a thousand times no! His enlightened eye is seen by the people – who fell into darkness and death's shadow, the sinister specter of world history, the changing image of living death emerging from this realm of terror. He sees the once rejected light now truly as *his* light (of the people). He sees him who was once merely seen in the form of a servant and as ignoble, who was only able to reveal his (hidden) divinity to the closest of his chosen, he now sees him in his clear divinity shining over Jerusalem. Yet it was said that in insufferably heeding this word, one wished to force everything back into the narrow framework of the story of the Son of Man and his rejection by his people. Such an interpretation of the scriptures cannot be taken seriously. It is oriented towards the basic literal sense of this context.

But rather, we have a clear example of a wonderful, masterful manner in which the words of the prophecy

are crafted and forged. It cannot at all be denied that this word has already actually, literally been fulfilled once in Israel – before the 19th century. It is also undeniable that its actual, exhaustive fulfillment as God intended has not yet been realized in history, but will be in the future. This is the unfathomable, inimitable singular way of divine revelation that it can be fulfilled without being exhausted or dispelled through the same. As is also the case, for example, with the word of the prophet Joel, for example, who experienced actual, magnificent fulfillment on the day of Pentecost as Paul declared through the Holy Ghost Acts 2, 16 et seqq. its content is neither exhausted nor emptied on that day nor as a result of all the spiritual demonstrations; rather which still

contradicts its fulfillment encompassing "all flesh" in future ages.

It is also very educational to observe how all initial albeit actual fulfillments of the prophecy are always in the wake of human failure to commit fully and completely to it. The first time his great plans are carried out, God never arrives at the intended and endeavored goal - for the sake of our hardness of heart. As such, "the next time" must always follow "the first time". This is also a law that governs all prophesyings and their execution. Such was the case with the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost in Jerusalem, which succeeded and intended to bring about the national rebirth of the Jewish people, but had neither been recognized nor recorded. For this reason, it must and will repeat itself, that is, on the soil of the same Jewish people. (It is a fatal error and mistake to use the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first gathering of the heathens in the house of Cornelius of Caesarea as help here. This had nothing to do with Israel's national rebirth, but solely meant the creation of an entirely new body, the "body of Christ", which forms itself from all Gentiles before Israel's rebirth as a people will continue.)

This is how it was, back then, with the rising of the light over Jerusalem in the person of his only begotten son. Rejected, unrecognized the first time. Only the next time is the light fully recognized and worshiped Mt. 23, 39; Hebr. 9, 28; Zechariah. 12, 10-14.