



Eternal Life

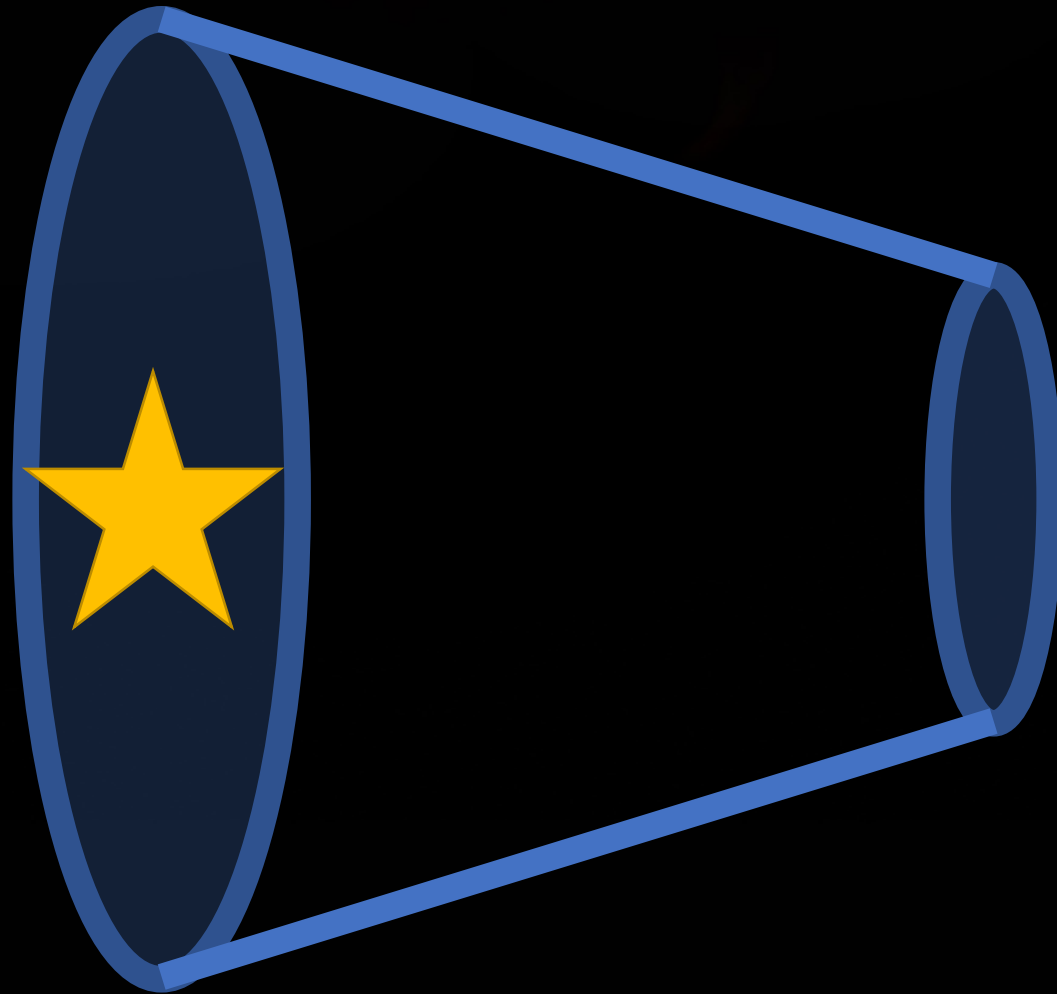
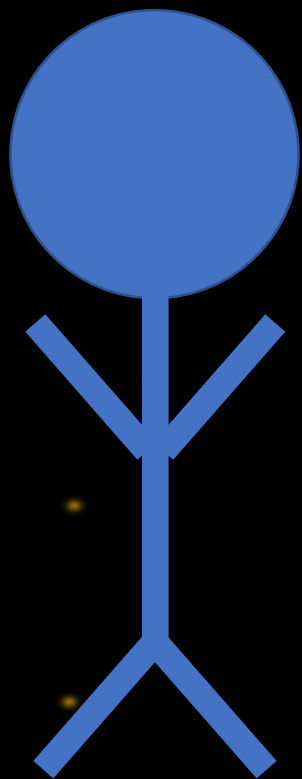
A Study of 1 John



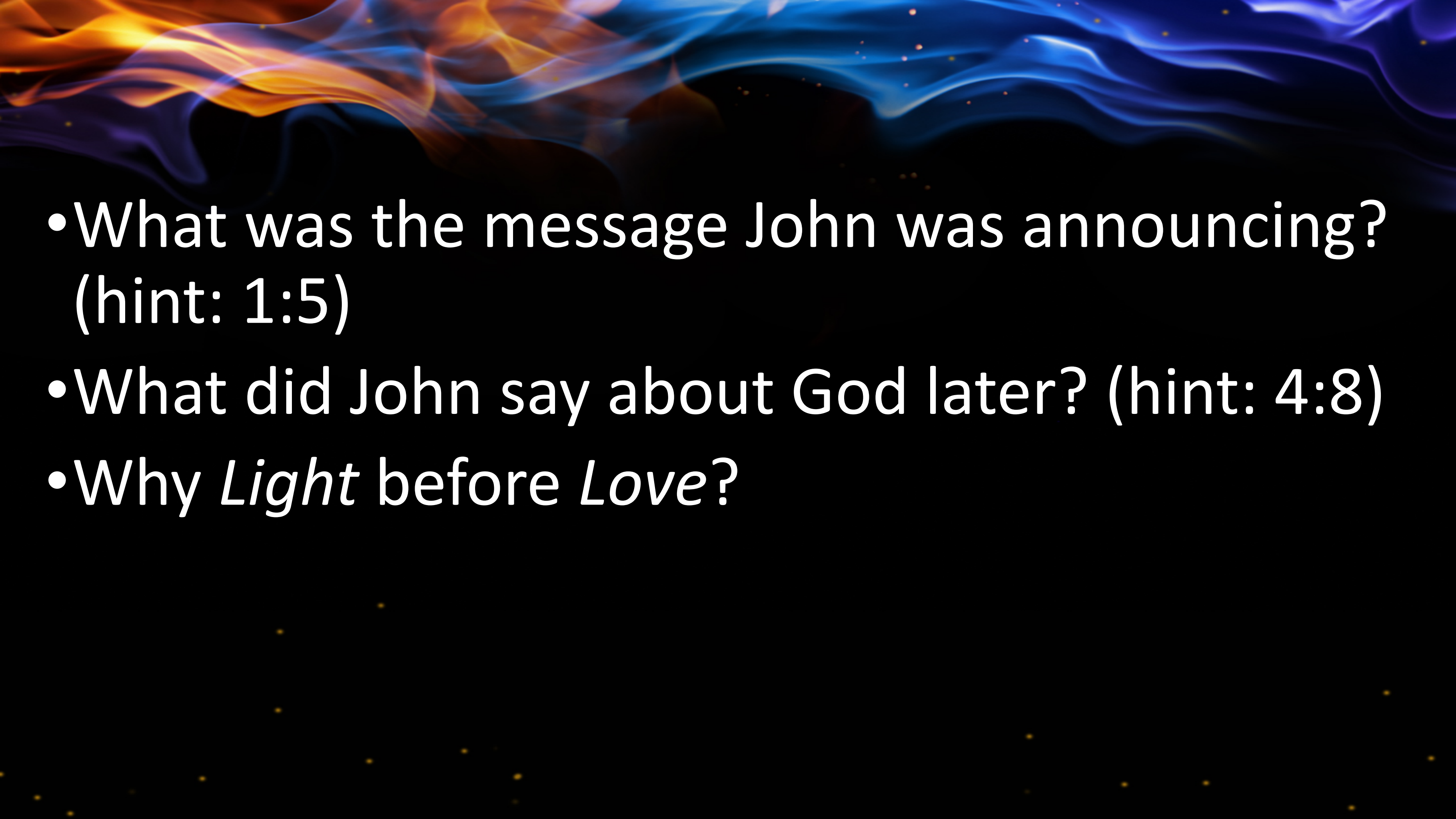
Which Comes First?

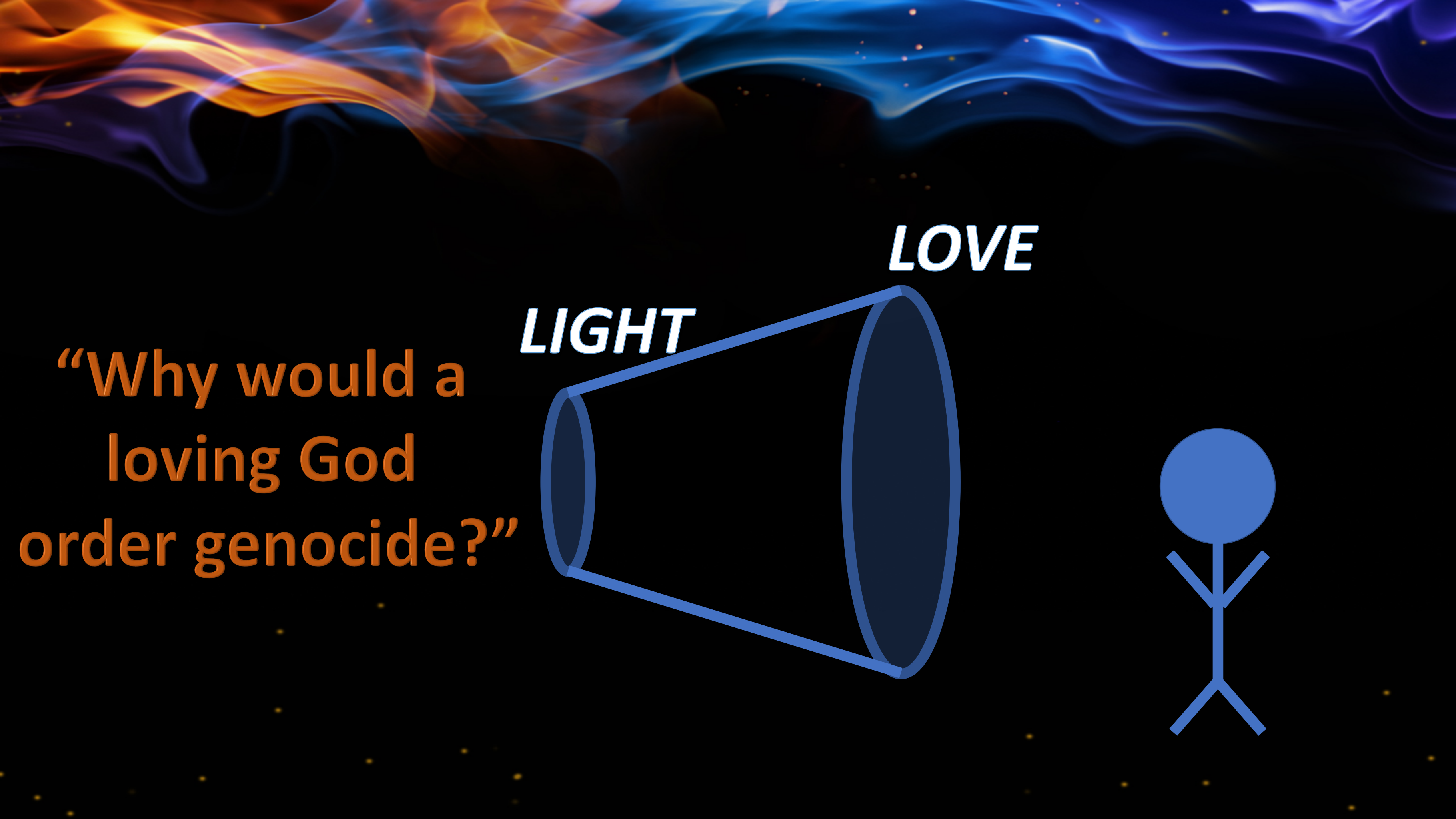
- The financial trouble or the bailout?
- The house fire or the firefighters?
- The drowning or the rescue?
- The judgment or the mercy?
- The offense or the grace?
- The condemnation or the salvation?

- Have you ever looked through a telescope the wrong way?

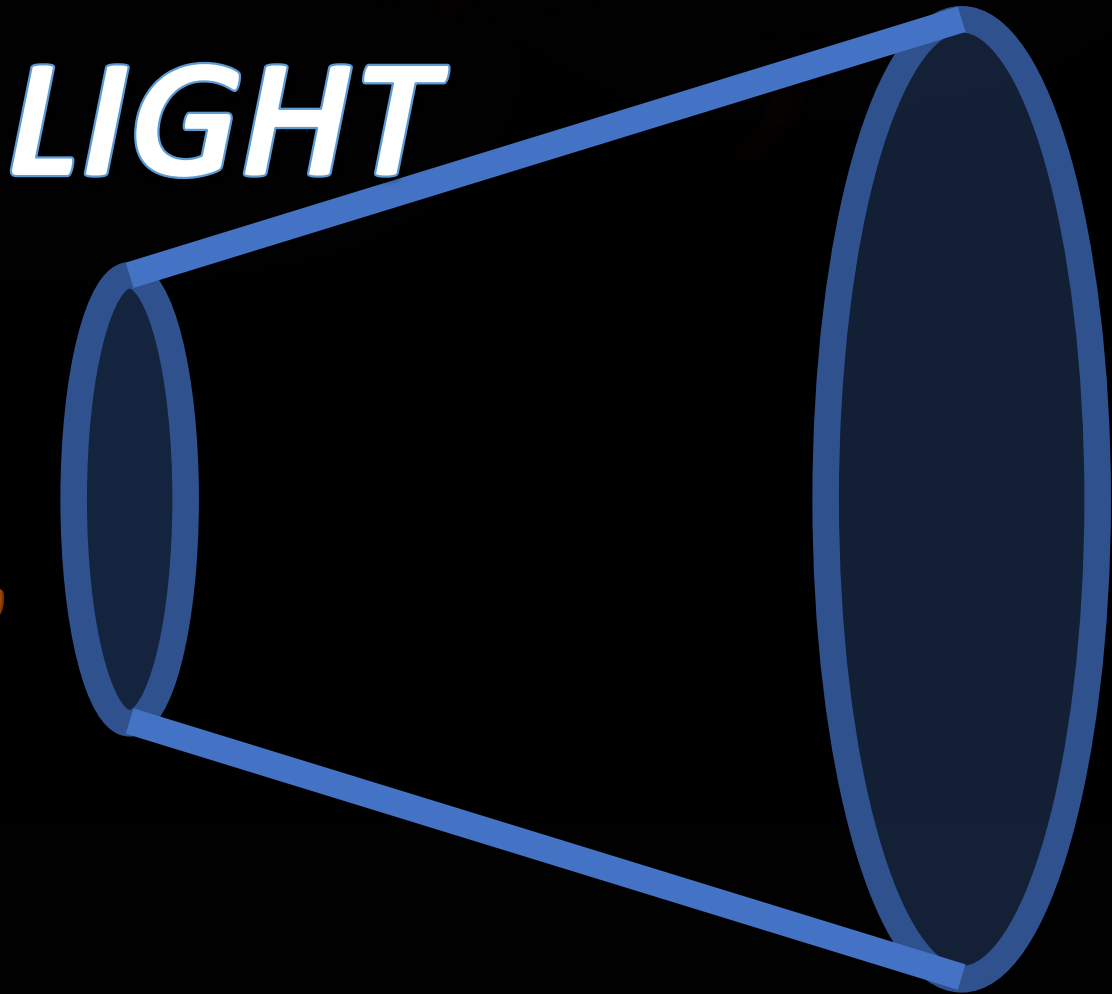




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- What was the message John was announcing?
(hint: 1:5)
 - What did John say about God later? (hint: 4:8)
 - Why *Light* before *Love*?

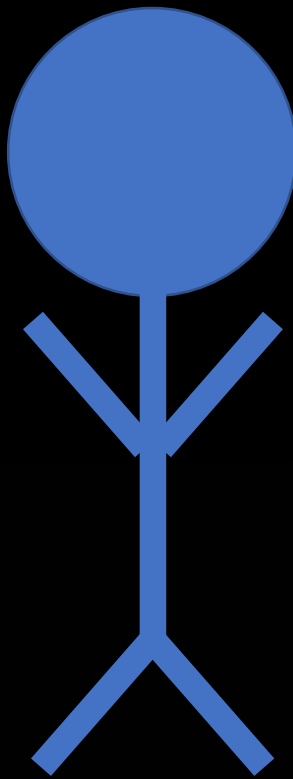


“Why would a loving God order genocide?”



LIGHT

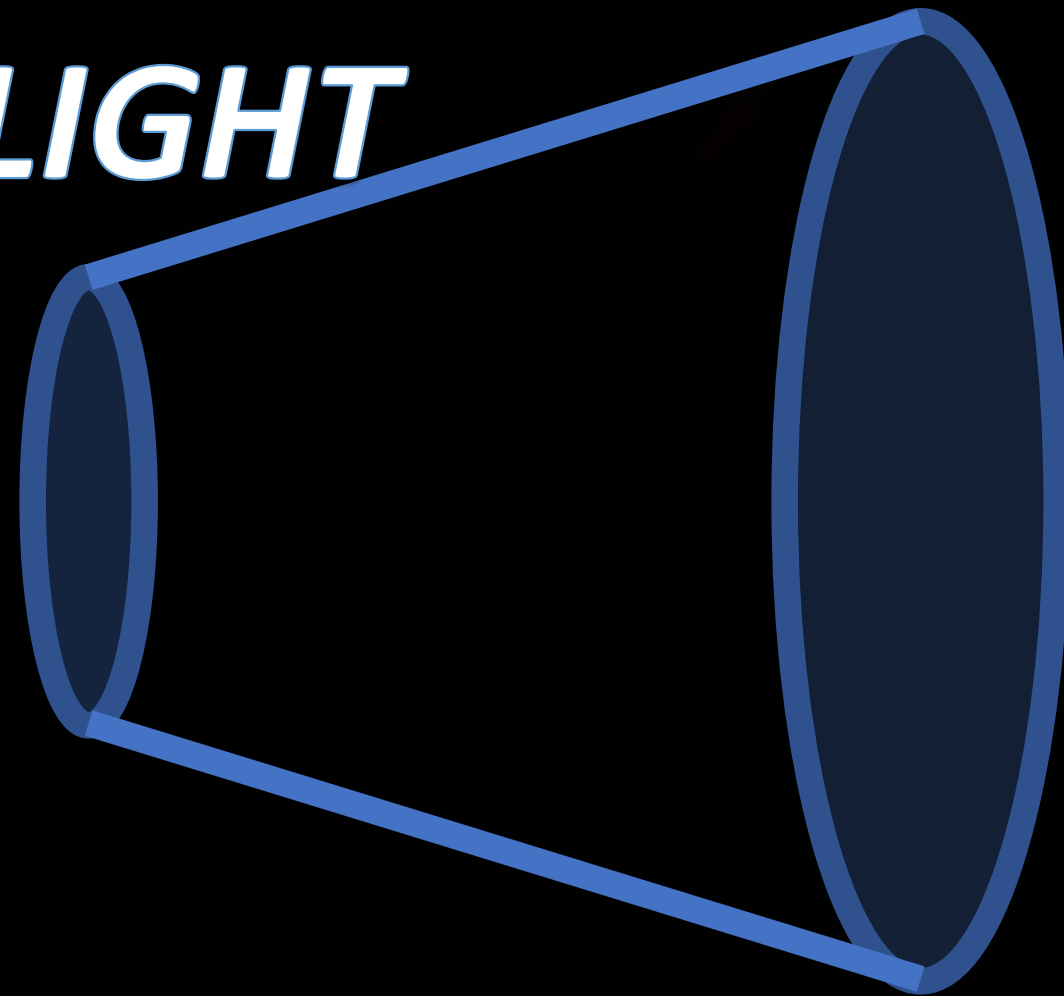
LOVE



LIGHT

LOVE

***“Why would a
holy God let
anyone live?!”***





1 John 2:1-2

- *Walking in the Light* (Part 1)
 1. Renouncing Sin
 2. Addressing Sin

Renouncing Sin

- The message: “God is Light” (1:5-10)
 - *Fellowship with God / walking in the Light / walking in the darkness / dealing with sin*
- Even though we are born again, we still sin (8)
- Does *confession = license*? (9)
- “I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin” (2:1)



Renouncing Sin

- *I am writing these things to you*
 - We need to know the truth (*Light*), and then obey it (*walk in the Light*)
 - “Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.” (Ps. 86:11)

Renouncing Sin

- *I am writing ... so that you may not sin*
- Sin is walking in darkness, not God's Light
- Why do we sin?
 - Because we have hearts that want things (Mark 7:20-23; cf. James 1:14-15; 4:1-4)
 - Sometimes we choose what we want over what God wants (cf. Gen. 3:6)

Renouncing Sin

- *I am writing ... so that you may not sin*
- But we don't have to sin! (cf. Eph. 4:1, 17)
- We need to know God's way and then choose God's way over our way (Prov. 3:1-8; Rom. 6; Col. 3:1-17)
- "Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You." (Ps. 119:11)

Addressing Sin

- *If anyone sins*
 - We have an Advocate with the Father
 - Advocate: *one called alongside; intercessor; mediator; comforter* (see John 14:16)
 - One who pleads the cause of another
 - Jesus (*the righteous*) intercedes on our behalf when we sin (-> out of fellowship)

Addressing Sin

- *He Himself is the propitiation for our sins*
 - *To placate or pacify by means of an offering*
 - *“Appease God with bribes? That’s pagan!”*
 - *Which way are you holding the telescope?*
 - *Love then Light => “Monster god”*
 - *Light then Love => Amazing Grace!*

Addressing Sin

- Because God is *Light*, sin brings wrath (John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 3:5-6)
 - God's standard is perfect righteousness
 - God's justice demands punishment
 - But what can sinful man possibly offer to placate a holy God?

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

Addressing Sin

- Because God is *Love*, He paid the price Himself
 - “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)
 - “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us” (1 John 3:16; cf. Rom. 5:8)

Addressing Sin

- Because God is *Love*, He paid the price Himself
 - Only *Jesus Christ the righteous* (2:1) could satisfy the demands of God's justice
 - Jesus as High Priest offered *Himself* as the once-for-all atoning sacrifice (Heb. 9:11-14)
 - God reconciled man to Himself thru the death of His Son (Rom. 5:10-11)

Addressing Sin

- *and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world*
- His propitiation is available to all men
- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16)



The Good News!

- We offend God's holiness & deserve His wrath
- Yet God loves us and wants to save us
- God sent Jesus to die on our behalf
- Jesus *the righteous* took our wrath; Jesus now offers us His righteousness
- God offers man salvation as a free gift
- Those who refuse remain under His wrath



So What?

- John wants us to know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
- Do you understand what God has done for you?
- Have you accepted God's free gift of salvation?
 - You cannot have God's *Life* without it



So What?

- John wants us to know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
- We share in God's *Life* only when we walk in God's *Light*
- We cannot walk in God's *Light* and sin at the same time – we must choose one or the other (cf. Gal. 5:13-25; Col. 3:1-)



So What?

- If you sin:
 - Is this a regular pattern in your life?
 - Do you know what God wants?
 - Are you willing to do what God wants?
- Jesus paid it ALL! And He pleads our cause
- Humble confession restores fellowship and brings *cleansing* (1:9; cf. Luke 18:9-14)