

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

By Keith Greer

*“But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.” {Malachi 4:2} Did Malachi’s reference to the Sun indicate a “slip” of his pen? Let’s study some of the similarities between the **SUN** and the **SON**—CHRIST:*

Center of the World. *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” {Colossians 1:15-17} Just as the sun is the center of the world, in like manner, Christ was on “center stage” when God created the heavens and the earth—all were created by Him and for Him; and all exist because of Him!*

Source of True Light. *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” {John 8:12} The sun, high in the sky, is the great light of the day {Genesis 1:16}. In a much more meaningful way, Jesus is the source of true light to those who live in the darkness of sin. “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” {John 14:6}*

Source of Heat. *“And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’” {Luke 24:32} These two eye-witnesses of the Lord’s resurrection said His words caused their hearts to “burn within them.” Paul said the same thing when he wrote that he could do nothing without Christ {Philippians 4:13}. Listen to Paul’s words to the Galatian churches, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” {Galatians 2:20}*

Object of Beauty. *“Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.” {1 Peter 2:22,23} During the day, when the sun is high in the sky, it reveals the beauty of God’s creation for the entire world to see and appreciate. The character that Christ exemplified while He lived on earth followed Him, even to the cross. As He gave His life on Calvary, our Savior painted a wonderful picture of the beauty of true forgiveness.*

Healing Power. *“When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” {Matthew 9:12,13} Often, those who are ailing and in poor health sit out in the bright sunshine so that its warmth can help them to experience new-found energy. Jesus demonstrated His healing power over man’s greatest disease—sin!*

Different Effects on Different Materials. *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to*

those who believe in His name.” {John 1:11,12} In like manner, the sun helps some people feel wonderful, while others become depressed. Why the difference? It’s all about attitude and perspective. Jesus showed, in many ways, that He was the Messiah of Old-Testament prophecy and the Son of God. Yet, because of prejudice and differing attitudes, many of the Jews rejected Him.

Are you allowing the “**SUN**” to shine in your life, or are you rejecting its benefits because of prejudice in your heart? Never forget only the **SON** can lead you to the words of righteousness. ***