

“Shine on Me” with James Cleveland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a69giaiPHrw>

“Hold Up the Light” with the New Jersey Mass Choir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH93vb39s_s

“Battle Hymn of the Republic” with Whitney Houston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSvH4s-4sCQ>

“Made a Way” with Travis Greene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPy65Kl7Un8>

“Faith Come Alive” with Tasha Page Lockhart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtMvWgdNBW4>

“Jacob’s Song” with Briana Babineaux

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyxZcISJ-2o>

“I’ll Be The One” with Briana Babineaux

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3uIvXF3Dv4>

“What He’s Done for Me” with Briana Babineaux and the Women of Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JL1ktRNGNj8>

“Necessary” with Fantasia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3xXxXu1Kfc>

“Put a Praise On It” with Tasha Cobbs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2kRwif6SbU>

“Satan, We’re Going to Tear Your Down” with Shirley Caesar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwYPC9Q4REg>

“I Need You to Survive” with Hezekiah Walker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnaHTOUigJM>

“I’ll Keep My Light in My Window” with Shirley Caesar
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hlb-NR_lliE

“This Joy That I Have” with Shirley Caesar
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmCYo7tXojY>

“Medley: Peter, Don’t Be Afraid; Nobody But You; Teach Me, Master” with Shirley Caesar
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usk0kg-R3aE>

“I Almost Let Go” with the Kurt Carr Singers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLm9va_4JJc

“This Little Light of Mine” with Addison Road
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVeB7ACVgOo>

Light and Not Gloom For All of Us in Anguish

Judges 6; Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 4:12-17

Praise the Lord! I hope *[t]here will be no gloom for those who were in anguish, Isaiah 9:1a*. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord takes hold of us to do the unique work that makes us light in darkness for others, and ultimately for ourselves.

All the world is in turmoil at the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States. I thought that only those of us who voted for something better in Hillary Clinton would be in anguish. But much of the world is also in anguish. And more than that, Donald Trump and his

supporters are also in anguish. If you listen to Donald Trump and his supporters, they are neither jubilant nor at peace. Trump and his supporters speak of this still being a time for fighting so that they can win.

But I believe that there is light and not gloom for all of us who are in anguish.

Jesus faced the anguish of his cousin, John the Baptist, being arrested. What would happen to him? What would happen to their families? What would happen to all the people that John the Baptist baptized?

Jesus went home and started over again. *[W]hen Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, Matthew 4:12-13.* Jesus left his home of Nazareth from the age of 2 and then found a new home in Capernaum at age 30.

The amazing thing about this scripture is that it did not focus on the anguish that Jesus must have went through. The scripture focused on the fact that Jesus, in whatever anguish He was in, became the light for the land that Jesus moved into.

Matthew 4 said that Jesus did all this moving *14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' 17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near,'"* *Matthew 4:14-17.*

Could it be that this is really a time when the kingdom of heaven has come near and we all have access to the work of God's Kingdom? All of us may face many disruptions and new anguish. But what if what matters more than our anguish is the light that we end up bringing to each other?

Then the work of this time would truly be like that prophecy of *Isaiah 9*, fulfilled in Jesus, where the prophet said to God: *You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian, Isaiah 9:3-4.*

When God delivered the Israelites from the Midianites, Gideon turned the amassing of the Midianites against him into a movement for all of Gideon's neighbors and fellow tribesmen. After Gideon toppled the Midianite idols in their occupied territory, *33 all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east came together, and crossing the Jordan they encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. 34 But the spirit of the Lord took possession of Gideon; and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezites were called out to follow him. 35 He sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them, Judges 6:33-55.*

The work of the Spirit was to bring people together against the gloom that the Midianites brought against the people of Israel. The work of the Spirit after Herod arrested John the Baptist was to move Jesus out of His home into a new region so that Jesus' ministry would bring light to all of Galilee throughout Naphtali and Zebulun. There is a work of the Spirit for us, and it goes beyond our anguish to bring light to others. When we follow the Spirit, our anguish will go; and we will be left with the testimony that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

These are astonishing times. But there is light and not gloom for all of us in anguish.

Great joy!

Tobias Pinckney, 1/22/17, Powered to Witness University

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