

Chapter 44

Because The World Is Round

BIBLE

Again, the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples.¹ He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light.²

He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light.³ In the hearing of all the people, he said to his disciples⁴ “God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light.⁵ God saw the light, and saw that it was good. God divided the light from the darkness.⁶

“Come and see God's deeds - awesome work on behalf of the children of men!⁷ Sing to the glory of his name! Offer glory and praise!⁸

“Let all the earth fear Yahweh. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.⁹

“Whatever Yahweh pleased, that he has done, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps;¹⁰ who causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth; who makes lightning with the rain; who brings forth the wind out of his treasures.¹¹

COMMENTARY

¹ **John 1:35**

² **Matthew 17:2** John wore a white suit for his wedding to Yoko Ono and also, famously, for the photo that was used on the cover of *Abbey Road*. The color white represents transcendent values such as purity, wholeness, and harmony.

³ **John 1:8** John: “I mean to show everybody the light.” (“The Word”)

⁴ **Luke 20:4**

⁵ **Genesis 1:3**

⁶ **Genesis 1:4** Eckhart Tolle: “Anything unconscious dissolves when you shine the light of consciousness on it.”

⁷ **Psalms 66:5** Amit Ray: “Earth is the holiest place in the Universe; loving the earth, and loving life is the way to generate positive vibrations.”

⁸ **Psalms 66:2**

⁹ **Psalms 33:8** To “fear” God is to be in awe of Divine power.

¹⁰ **Psalms 135:6**

¹¹ **Psalms 135:7** In “Because,” John is in awe of the Universe and all that God has created. “Because the wind is high it blows my mind,” he shares. John loved word play, and this is one of three puns in “Because.” (Pun #1: On a blustery day, the wind “blows” hard.)

“To him who alone does great wonders; for his loving kindness endures forever.¹² He is before all things, and in him all things are held together.¹³ We love him, because he first loved us.”¹⁴

“Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.¹⁵ He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love.”¹⁶

“He loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of the loving kindness of Yahweh.¹⁷ Be glad in Yahweh, and rejoice, you righteous! Shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart!”¹⁸

When he had said this, and had taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it, and began to eat.¹⁹

He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed.²⁰ “Be exalted, God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth.²¹ For your loving kindness is great above the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.”²²

“I indeed declare, Love stands firm forever. You established the heavens. Your faithfulness is in them.”²³ Therefore I will give thanks to you, Yahweh, among the nations, and will sing praises to your name.”²⁴

¹² **Psalm 136:4** John: “Love is old, love is new.” (“Because”)

¹³ **Colossians 1:17** The loving kindness of the Universe is the energy that holds everyone and everything together.

¹⁴ **1 John 4:19**

¹⁵ **1 John 4:11** In “Because,” John reminds us that love is all that matters: “love is all, love is you.”

¹⁶ **1 John 4:8**

¹⁷ **Psalm 33:5**

¹⁸ **Psalm 32:11** We are “righteous” when we are able to choose love even in the most difficult of circumstances. When we are able to freely give and receive love we are set free. We have found an inner sense of joy.

¹⁹ **Acts 27:35**

²⁰ **Luke 22:41**

²¹ **Psalm 108:5** In “Because,” John is in awe of the glory that is found over all the earth: “Because the world is round it turns me on.” (Pun #2: Since the world spins on its axis, it “turns.”)

²² **Psalm 108:4** In “Because,” John proclaims the splendor of the Universe that reaches to the skies: “Because the sky is blue it makes me cry.” (Pun #3: People cry when they are sad and “blue.”)

²³ **Psalm 89:2** Franklin P. Jones: “Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.”

²⁴ **2 Samuel 22:50**