

LIGHT AMIDST DARKNESS



SBL GREEK NT

1 Διὰ τοῦτο, ἔχοντες τὴν
διακονίαν ταύτην καθὼς
ἠλεήθημεν, οὐκ ἐγκακοῦμεν,

2. ἀλλὰ ἀπειπάμεθα τὰ κρυπτὰ
τῆς αἰσχύνης, μὴ
περιπατοῦντες ἐν πανουργίᾳ
μηδὲ δολοῦντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ
θεοῦ, ἀλλὰ τῇ φανερώσει τῆς
ἀληθείας συνιστάνοντες
ἑαυτοὺς πρὸς πᾶσαν
συνείδησιν ἀνθρώπων
ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ.

This Tuesday, May 26th: Having studied the Qur'anic passages (esp. Surah Nur et. al.) on this topic we will now look at the Biblical texts on light amidst darkness.

Both in the Qur'an and Bible:

If light represents goodness in antithesis to the evil associated with darkness, it is a natural step for the biblical authors (and in the Qur'an as well) to understand God, the ultimate good, as light. (Cf. Surah Nur in the Qur'an). Light symbolizes **the holy God**. Light signifies God's presence and favor (Psalm 27:1; Isa 9:2; 2 Cor 4:6) in contrast to God's judgment (Amos 5:18). Throughout the Old Testament light is regularly associated with God and his word, with salvation, with goodness, with truth, with life.

a) In the end, we will come back to the "God is Light Texts" especially II Cor. 4:1-6 after we look at the backdrop of darkness as it is acknowledged in the Bible (see b) Go to point b) and read about the 'darkness' then return to study God's as 'light' in a) II Cor. 1-6

NIV ENGLISH TRANSLATION

1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

3 εἰ δὲ καὶ ἔστιν κεκαλυμμένον τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ἡμῶν, ἐν τοῖς ἀπολλυμένοις ἐστὶν κεκαλυμμένον,

4 ἐν οἷς ὁ θεὸς τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου ἐτύφλωσεν τὰ νοήματα τῶν ἀπίστων εἰς τὸ μὴ αὐγάσαι τὸν φωτισμὸν τοῦ εὐαγγελίου τῆς δόξης τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς ἐστὶν εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ.

5 οὐ γὰρ ἑαυτοὺς κηρύσσομεν ἀλλὰ Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἢ κύριον, ἑαυτοὺς δὲ δούλους ὑμῶν διὰ Ἰησοῦν.

6 ὅτι ὁ θεὸς ὁ εἰπὼν · Ἐκ σκότους φῶς λάμψει, ὃς ἔλαμψεν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ Χριστοῦ.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Cf. Psalms 27;

Cf. Isa. 9:2

b) And then focus on texts in the Bible which compare light amidst darkness (CF. "Darkness", *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*, Michael Wilkins)

- DARKNESS In both the Old Testament (Heb. *hasak* and New Testament (Gk. *skotos* is an evocative word. If light symbolizes God, darkness connotes everything that is anti-God:
1. wicked
([Prov 2:13-14](#) ; (NIV) "13 who have left the straight path to walk in dark ways, 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil"
[1 Thess 5:4-7](#)), (NASB) "4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you ^[a]like a thief; ⁵for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶so then let us not sleep as ^[b]others do, but let us be alert and ^[c]sober. ⁷For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night."

2. judgment

([Exod 10:21](#) ; (ASV) ²¹ And Jehovah said unto Moses, Stretch out thy hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, ^[a]even darkness which may be felt.
([Matt 25:30](#)); (ASV) ³⁰ And cast ye out the unprofitable ^[a]servant into the outer darkness: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

3. death ([Psalm 88:12](#)).(NASB) "Will Your wonders be made known in the darkness
And Your ^[a]righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?"

God Rules the Darkness. (There is no thought that darkness is equal in power to God's light.)

1. God knows the darkness

- ([Job 34:22](#)) "There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.
- and what it contains ([Dan 2:22](#)) "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells with Him.

2. God rules over the darkness (because he created it):

([Isa 45:7](#) : (NASV) 7 The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these. (cf. [Amos 4:13](#)).

3. God uses the darkness (for his own purposes)

([Psalm 18:11](#) (NASV) He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. CF. [1 Kings 8:12](#));

4. God uses the darkness to bring his judgment on:

a) **evildoers:** ([Deut 28:28-29](#) ; The LORD will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart; ²⁹ and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you. cf. [Matt 8:12](#) ; [22:13](#)),

b) evil nations ([Eze 30:18-19](#)),“In Tehaphnehes the day will be dark when I break there the yoke bars of Egypt. Then the pride of her power will cease in her; a cloud will cover her, And her daughters will go into captivity.

c) false prophets ([Jer 23:12](#): ““Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them,They will be driven away into the gloom and fall down in it;
For I will bring calamity upon them, The year of their punishment,” declares the LORD. CF. [Micah 3:6](#) ; [Rev 16:10](#)).

5. God rules over the darkness eschatologically. The time of God's ultimate judgment, the day of the Lord, is portrayed in both the Old Testament and New Testament as a day of darkness

a) ([Joel 2:2](#) : A day of darkness and gloom; A day of clouds and thick darkness; As the dawn is spread over the mountains; So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been *anything* like it, Nor will there be again after it; To the years of many generations.”

b) [Matt 24:29](#) : ²⁹ “But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from ^[a]the sky, and the powers of ^[b]the heavens will be shaken. cf. [Rev 6:12-17](#):

NOW GO BACK TO POINT a) FOR THE GOOD NEWS!!