Bible Study:
Light in Scripture

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Bible Study, Part 1:
Light and God’s Presence

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Creation and Light

“Let there be light...God created the greater light and the lesser light.” (Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19)

- Referenced in Psalm 136:7-9
- Light on first day prior to sun and moon on fourth day
- Some early interpreters (Philo, Ambrose, Ephrem the Syrian) understood this as a different type of light, showing an “intellectual” or “spiritual” or “invisible” light before the physical, visible light that comes from sun. Jewish interpreters talk about the “hidden light”.

God’s first act in creation is to make light.
Creation and Light

- God’s control over light
- “Where is the way to the dwelling of light...?” (Job 38:19)
- “The poor and the oppressor have this in common: the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.” (Proverbs 29:13)
Darkness is as Light to God

“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.” (Psalm 139:11-12)
God creates light and darkness

“...I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and I create darkness, I make weal [shalom] and create woe [ra]; I the LORD do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:6-7)
Exodus and Light

- Pillar of **Fire** at night to provide light (Exodus 13:21)
  - Referenced in penitential prayer in Nehemiah 9:12-19 and in historical review of Psalm 105:39
- **Lampstand** in Tabernacle to provide light (Exodus 35)
- God’s continual presence
God’s Face

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

(Numbers 6:24-26)
God’s Face

“Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!” (Psalm 4:6)
“Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.” (Psalm 31:16)
“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.” (Psalm 67:1)
“Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.” (refrain in Psalm 80:3, 7, 19)
God lights my way

“It is you who lights my lamp; the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.”
(Psalm 18:28 // 2 Samuel 22:29)

“O send out your light and your truth; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.” (Psalm 43:3)
LORD is light and salvation

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)
Light and Life

“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.” (Psalm 36:9)

“For you have delivered my soul from death and my feet from falling, so that I may walk before God in the light of life.” (Psalm 56:13)
Light and the righteous

“Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!”

(Psalm 97:11-12)
No need for sun in God’s presence

“Your sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.” (Isaiah 60:19)

“And there will be continuous day (it is known to the LORD), not day and not night, for at evening time there shall be light.”

(Zechariah 14:7)
No sun in Eternal Future

“And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.” (Revelation 21:23-24)

“And there will be no more night; they need no lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 22:5)