



## **A Light in the Darkness**

All of us have experienced the loss of electrical lights and suddenly being in total darkness. It is a very bad experience as we stumble around in the dark looking for a flashlight or trying to light candles. A permanent solution to this physical darkness is not available because this loss of light will occur again. Likewise spiritual darkness is a very bad experience, but there is a permanent solution.

When baby Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem according to the law of Moses, Simeon a righteous and devout man with the Holy Spirit upon him said, *"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."* (Luke 2:29-32 RSV)

The apostle John in the first few words of his epistle wrote of Jesus, *"in him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:4-5 RSV)

When the Pharisees tested Jesus trying to develop some charge to bring against him, Jesus replied in John 8:12 (RSV), *"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he encouraged them, "let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light and in his letter to the church at Ephesus, *"for once you were in darkness, but now you are a light in the Lord; walk as children of light."* (Ephesians 5:8 RSV)

In Peter's letter of exhortation to the exiles of the Dispersion he wrote, *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* (1 Peter 2:9 RSV)

1 John 1:5 (RSV) we read, *“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.”*

Jesus in his sermon on the mount taught, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16 RSV)

In this New Year, 2023, let's take these scriptures to heart and walk in this marvelous light that our loving God has made available to us.

- Bailey Howell