

Light Shines in the Darkness
Epiphany Roundtable
February 6th: “Light in the Torah”

Three interesting instances of “light” in the Torah:

(1) *Creation*

- “And God said, ‘Let there be **light**’; and there was **light**. And God saw that the **light** was good; and God separate the **light** from the darkness. God called the **light** Day, and the darkness he called Night” (Genesis 1:3-5).
- “And God said, ‘Let there be **lights** in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years...And God made the two great **lights**, the greater **light** to rule the day, and the lesser **light** to rule the night; he made the stars also” (Gen. 1:14, 16).
- “And there was evening and there was morning...”

(2) *Exodus*

- “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them **light**, that they might travel by day and by night; the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people” (Exodus 13:21-22).
- “And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of **fire** and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from before Israel; for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians” (Exod. 14:24-25).

(3) *Tabernacle*

- “And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold...And you shall make the seven lamps for it; and the lamps shall be set up so as to give **light** upon the space in front of it” (Exod. 25:31, 37).
- “And you shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the **light**, that a lamp may be set up to burn continually. In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD” (Exod. 27:20-21).

Three interesting instances of “stars” in the Torah:

(1) *Promise to Abraham*

- “And [the Lord] brought [Abraham] outside and said, ‘Look toward heaven, and number the **stars**, if you are able to number them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be” (Genesis 15:5).

(2) *Joseph’s Dream*

- “Then [Joseph] dreamed another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, ‘Behold, I have dreamed another dream; and behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven **stars** were bowing down to me” (Gen. 37:9).

(3) *Balaam’s Oracle*

- “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: a **star** shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab, and break down all the sons of Sheth” (Numbers 24:17).