

## FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

John 8:12

The “Golden One” ruled over all. He blazed with such dazzling light that there was no chance of darkness in His presence. All was light. His was not a flashing light or a glow that went high and low. It shone constantly with a brilliance that overcame even the sun.

Yet the “Golden One” didn’t just shine. He loved. In His love He made people—people who could love Him by loving each other. He could share His brightness with them so they could reflect it to each other. There was no stumbling around, no hiding, no need to cover anything up, no feelings of shame. All lived in the light of the “Golden One.”

But people found that if they turned away from the “Golden One,” there was a shadow. In that shadow they could make things on their own. They could make figures and shapes and move them along at the control of their fingers and bodies. They could make their own world apart from the “Golden One.”

More and more the people turned from the “Golden One” for their own world of shadow. They imagined that they could make all kinds of things—towers that went up to heaven, inventions that made everything so easy, images to satisfy all their desires, virtual reality to fulfill all their lusts. But it was all just images and shadows. It all just led to darkness.

The people got more and more used to darkness. They became like the bugs that scurry into corners in our basements to hide when we turn on a light. In fact if they ever got near the “Golden One,” they covered their faces in fear. They shouted, “You are too much for us!” Even brief glimpses of Him were too much. They preferred the darkness and the “Dark One” who dwelt there.

The “Golden One” does not look the other way with darkness. Darkness doesn’t just mean the absence of light; it is the destruction of love. In darkness it is all about “me.” In darkness the world is not a blessing to make people thankful, but a place to exploit for selfish desires. In darkness people live to fight against each other. In darkness there is deceit and a twisting of truth. In darkness there is death. And the “Golden One” will not let darkness curb His light. In His presence darkness is consumed and destroyed.

Yet the “Golden One” loved the people. He would not abandon them in darkness. He sent glimpses of His light to the people—special events and special people who told others about Him. But still there was darkness.

So the “Golden One” decided to invade the peoples’ world of darkness. He could have done it with all His power and might. The darkness would have been gone, but it would have been too much for the people in darkness. It would be like an aggressive chemotherapy that would kill the cancer, but also the body with it. Instead the “Golden One” became a human to shine a light into the world of darkness.

He established a “beachhead” of light in a small part of the world. He gained some followers. “Pockets” of light began to appear as people came to Him to find out what He was all about. Three times light shone from above on Him so that people could know who He was. He spoke about light and walking in the light. He called Himself ‘the light of the world.’”

But darkness counterattacked. It sent followers after the “Golden One” to try to snuff out His light. But He turned tables on them by driving darkness out of people, showing light through His acts of mercy and His words of hope. His light exposed the evil of darkness and made clear the truth of light.

Then the “Golden One” seemed to give up. The pockets of light seemed to disappear as people one by one fell back into darkness. One of His followers even became so filled with darkness that he betrayed the “Golden One” to the dark. The dark ones did everything in the darkness to hide from the light. They seized Him in the darkness, led Him in darkness to a dark place, and in the darkness they put Him through a monkey trial. The “Golden One” did not resist them. He continued to shine His light, but let darkness lead Him away.

The forces of dark used the darkness in people to execute the “Golden One.” As He was dying, though His light shone. It did not shine with bright, overpowering magnificence, but in love, love that even forgave the ones killing Him. But as He was dying, light seemed to abandon Him, He entered into the very pit of darkness, darker than any deep cave. In that darkness His light seemed to be extinguished.

But as the “Golden One” died He took darkness with Him. He took its power and buried it into the deep pit with Him.

Then the “Golden One” came out of the pit. He shone with a light He only gave a glimpse of when He came to the earth. It was not His full brilliance, but a light that awoke His followers. He shone His light off and on to them; then with a special brilliance went back to where He first came from.

But that did not end His light here. No, He had firmly established His light among people here. And that light grew, not with big flashes, but as candles passed from one person to another. His followers did not overpower people by their power or intelligence or charisma or wealth. No, their light was the warmth of love made real by serving others. Their light was telling others about the light of the “Golden One.”

That light continues to shine in our world today. Even though things can appear dark as the effects of Covid-19 still darken our world. In fact the darker things get, the more the light shines. Listen to what we can read about the “Golden One:

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1)

This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8)

The time will come when light will return, not as a candle, but in full brilliance. The “Golden One” will show forth in full glory, but that will not be too much for His people to handle. It will not overwhelm them because they no longer live in darkness. They now live in His light.