

## Glory in Darkness

*Isa 60:1-2*

*1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

*2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

*Matt 5:14-15*

*14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

### I. Introduction

1. Isaiah foretold of a time when the earth would be covered with darkness and the people would be covered with gross darkness. There have been many periods of dark ages on the earth ever since Isaiah spoke that.
2. But what it teaches us is that when we see a period of darkness in the land, we can expect the glory of the LORD to rise on us, and the LORD to arise upon us, in such a way that His glory shall be seen on us.
3. We live in an age when the church can sense the darkness that is at work covering the earth, and the gross darkness on the people.
4. We have seen politics divide the nation into angry two angry adversaries.
5. We have seen violence spread in cities through large riots.
6. We have seen a pandemic reach its highest level of infection just two days ago in the state of Indiana with 4 short of 5,000 new cases reported that day, and Clay county hit its highest covid positivity rate this week at 16%.
7. But in a period of gross darkness, Jesus said His church, the kingdom of God on earth, was to rise to the occasion:

*Matt 5:14-15*

*14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

8. As long as we are being the light of the world, we will have the glory of the Lord rise on us and give light to all in the house.
9. This is a time of Glory in Darkness.

### II. Restrictions on the light

#### A. Jesus healed a blind man

1. I want to begin by addressing a time Jesus said would come, a time of darkness when no man can work.

*John 9:4-5*

*4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

*5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

2. And as long as Jesus was ministering in the world, there was light everywhere He went.
3. Let's look at the context of that passage to see how light works in the darkness.
4. Jesus said those words as a blind man was standing before Him wanting to be healed.

5. He made some mud and put it in the man's eyes, told him to go wash his eyes, and then the man was healed.
  6. But for that, Jesus was told He should not perform miracles on the Sabbath Day. Religious liberty was restricted by the ruling governing body.
  7. But restrictions on ministry did not stop Jesus from ministering.
  8. There was darkness at work all around, but it was a time for glory in darkness just like Isaiah was talking about.
- B. The church forbidden to preach in Jesus' name
1. And we looked at another example of that on Wednesday night when we studied Acts 4.
  2. Peter and John were arrested for preaching about the resurrection of Jesus. The verdict handed down at their trial was this:  
*Acts 4:18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*
  3. And the response of the apostles was:  
*Acts 4:19-20*  
*19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.*  
*20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*
  4. From this pastor, I encourage the church to continue to hearken to God and testify of what God has done.
  5. And the response of the church was:  
*Acts 4:29-30*  
*29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,*  
*30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*
  6. And as a church, let us pray daily that regardless of any threatenings, we respond with boldness and stretch out God's hand in whatever dark place you are.
  7. Notice God's response to the obedient church:  
*Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*
  8. What we need for a time of darkness is to be refilled with the Holy Ghost and get a dose of boldness that comes with it so the glory of the Lord can shine in darkness.
- C. Miracles in these dark days
1. Even during the period of time called the Dark Ages, history tells of bold martyrs who continued to proclaim the Word of God during that time.
  2. And yes, these are dark days, but as scripture proclaims, and as the history of the church reveals, dark days on this earth are just the times when the Light shines through.
  3. For example, have you had the opportunity to speak to someone of the hope in Jesus during these dark times?
  4. The woman we baptized during a Covid quarantine, came to the decision to be baptized because someone had been witnessing to her of a glory of the Lord that is able to cover the darkness of sin on our soul with forgiveness.
  5. And the glory of the Lord was evident on her face when she came out of the water.
  6. Light was shining in darkness!

7. And last Sunday morning, in the midst of weakness from sickness, a kind of darkness, the glory of the Lord shone in this place as we baptized a brother in Jesus' name.
8. Light was shining in darkness!
9. The same thing happened just a few weeks ago when that man who came through the bus ministry, was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost right in the water.
10. Yes, light was shining in darkness.
11. And you can read and see many other testimonies on Facebook of the Spirit of the Lord creating light in the midst of darkness.
12. The work of the ministry is creating glory wherever darkness is, even through our Facebook page.
13. While we have less than 100 who claim to be members of our church, in the last 28 days, we have had over 1300 people view our Facebook videos of services and the morning devotion.
14. And just since April, when the darkness of the pandemic started gripping the nation, through our website, which also has the services posted as well as sermon notes, we have been reaching people in China, India, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Spain, Japan, Mexico, Colombia, France, Turkey, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, South Korea, Nigeria, Germany, and even 4 people in Iran and 2 in Iraq.
15. What I see being fulfilled in this time of gross darkness is:  
*Isa 60:1-2*  
*1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*  
*2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*
16. It is not time to grab a pillow and sleep in the darkness. It is time for the glory of the Lord to be seen upon thee and bring glory in darkness.

### III. What not to do in darkness

#### A. Sleeping in the transfiguration

1. Sleeping through a time of darkness may be a common thing, but when God wants to shine His glory, that is not a time for the church to be napping.
2. Jesus invited Peter, James, and John to pray with Him on more than one occasion, but one particular time, it was a time of glory in the darkness.  
*Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.*
3. But while they were asleep:  
*Luke 9:29-31*  
*29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.*  
*30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:*  
*31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.*
4. That is the part that Peter, James, and John missed. But when they woke up, they did see His glory.
5. Waking up, not understanding the significance of that glory, Peter did what we would like to have done in that moment of glory—capture and contain it.  
*Luke 9:33-34*  
*33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is*

*good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.*

*34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.*

6. It was a time of darkness, but the glory was shining around them and Peter wanted to contain that glory within four walls and just stay on the mountain top dwelling in that glory.
  7. But the glory of the Lord is not intended to be contained in a box or under a bushel.
  8. Jesus said it was time to go down from the mountain into the valley where the people lived and were facing the devil and his darkness.
  9. So they went down from that place of glory, and took that glory into darkness as Jesus faced that darkness and cast him out.
  10. You see, the violent take the kingdom by force, not by sleeping.
- B. Sleeping during battle
1. Some great tragedies occur during sleep.
  2. While our bodies require sleep, there are times and places where sleeping results in tragic happenings.
  3. Judges chapter 4 tells a story of Sisera, the captain of the host of Canaan, who brought his 900 chariots of iron in battle against Israel.
  4. But of course, God was with Deborah and Barak who raised an army for Israel and they defeated the Canaanite warriors.
  5. But Captain Sisera of the Canaanites, escaped from the battle lines and hid in the tent in the tent of a friend named Heber and laid down for a nap.
  6. Here is a warning for folks weary from battle. Sisera of the Canaanites was an enemy of Israel, but he chose to trust Heber, who was related to Moses' father-in-law.
  7. Judges 4:17 said Heber had a peace agreement with the Canaanites so Sisera trusted him, but still, Heber was related to Moses's father-in-law which meant he also had ties to the Israelites.
  8. As it turns out, when Sisera laid down to nap in the tent, Heber's wife, Jael killed the captain:  
*Judg 4:21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.*
  9. The lesson is this. In the night when we would be sleeping, especially when we are weary of the battle, we need to be cautious of where we seek our comfort.
  10. When we are weary, we may be tempted to get comfort from something outside the glory of the Lord, and think we can make a peace agreement with the adversary.
  11. Do not seek any solutions for your comfort from the enemy.
  12. The devil's solution is not a solution, but a death trap.
- C. Sleeping with the enemy
1. We see this principle even more clearly in a later chapter when Sampson, the valiant warrior of Israel, laid his head to sleep in the tent of a stranger.
  2. It was clear to everyone but Sampson, that stranger danger in darkness was a real threat. But he went to this woman Deliah seeking comfort nonetheless.

3. The adversary knows that a child of God has the potential to see the glory of the Lord rise over and destroy his dark ways, so he wants to weaken us to be like others:  
*Judg 16:6-7*  
*6 And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.*  
*7 And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.*
  4. The adversary tried to make him weak like another man. And we see that again in verse 11:  
*Judg 16:11 And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.*
  5. But he was already weak in that he chose to take comfort from the enemy who was trying to destroy him.
  6. **We read that the enemy intended to**
    - a. **bind him**
    - b. **afflict him**
    - c. **make him weak, and**
    - d. **make him like other men**
  7. Yet at least three times he laid down to asleep in the time of danger in a place of danger.  
*Judg 16:19-20*  
*19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.*  
*20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.*
  8. Only he couldn't go out as at other times. He sought comfort and rest from the darkness rather than seeking God's glory in the darkness.
- D. Glory in the darkness
1. It is not time for us to go out as at other times. In case you haven't noticed, we are in dangerous times. It is a dark time.
  2. But we are champions of the light who can bring, by the power of the Holy Ghost, Glory in Darkness.
  3. It is not time to sleep with the enemy. It is high time to arise out of sleep:  
*Rom 13:11-12*  
*11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*  
*12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*
  4. Yes, we are into the night, but we are champions with the armor of God on we have glory in the darkness that must be brought out.
  5. We have a battle to win—a revival of righteousness awaiting our taking.
  6. When we do not allow our times or the adversary to bind us, afflict us, make us weak, and make us respond like others are responding, **we can see glory in darkness.**
  7. Our highest priority cannot be sleeping during danger, but being aware of the wiles of the devil.

8. If we understand our times, we can know what to do:  
*1 Chron 12:32 And of the children of Issachar, which were **men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do**; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.*

IV. Conclusion

1. We will close with this story about what we should do on a dark and stormy night. Not fall asleep, but move closer to the presence of Jesus and seek out His glory in the darkness.

*Matt 14:24-32*

*24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.*

*25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.*

*26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.*

*27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*

*28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

*29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.*

*30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*

*31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

*32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.*

2. We are going to get through this. As long as we remain in the presence of the Lord, all things are possible.
3. If you add up all the darkness in the world around you, it looks gross.
4. But there is a light that outshines any darkness. And when the church is the church in the middle of darkness, in the middle of the enemy's territory and is not sleeping with or negotiating with the enemy, that light will shine.
5. It is high time that we awaken out of sleep and be the church and a source of revival in the city, in the nation.

*Isa 60:1-2*

*1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

*2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*