



DIVINE ENCOUNTERS IN THE NIGHT

GOD'S SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTIONS

4TH WATCH
OF THE NIGHT



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Written by
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“...I hoped in thy word. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, That I might meditate in thy word.” Psalm 119:147-148

Research reveals the Fourth Watch is considered a time of great spiritual power. Miracles are performed, battles are won. The exodus from Egypt happened at that time. Many of the Jewish scholars and people believe it is a time when God walks the earth, checking on His creation. I like that idea—Jesus walking through our neighborhoods in the early morning hours. I imagine Him looking in my window, or waking me up at 3 AM to walk and pray with Him. I reasoned that if Jesus gets up while it is dark, then perhaps I should, especially since I long to be like Him. Plus, how many times have I awakened in the middle of the night, feeling an urgency to pray for someone? Why not get up, and accept Christ’s invitation to pray? After several years of getting up early for the 4th Watch, I confess I’m not consistent about rising at 3; sometimes it’s 4 or 5, and sometimes I fall back to sleep. Prayer is important anytime time, all the time.

Introduction

Beloved, throughout the Scriptures, the night has often served as a profound backdrop for encounters with our Almighty God. These sacred moments

reveal His character, His power, and His unwavering commitment to guide, protect, and transform His people. As Apostolic Pentecostals, we understand that our God is not just a distant deity; He is a personal, powerful presence who longs to interact with us intimately. In this sermon booklet, we will explore significant biblical events that occurred at night or during early morning hours, focusing on how God moved supernaturally in those moments. Prepare your hearts to receive a fresh revelation of His glory!

1. Jacob's Wrestling with God (Genesis 32:22-32)

Exposition:

Jacob's encounter with the divine being at night was not merely a physical struggle but a spiritual transformation. As he wrestled, he confronted his past, fears, and identity. The struggle lasted until dawn, symbolizing the intense spiritual battles we face. Jacob's tenacity in seeking a blessing exemplifies our need to engage with God fervently.

Application:

Just as Jacob received a new name and identity, we too can experience transformation through our struggles with God. In our darkest nights, when we feel alone, we must remember that God is present,

inviting us to wrestle with our doubts and fears. It is in these moments that we can emerge renewed, ready to face the challenges ahead. So, let us not shy away from the struggle but embrace it, knowing that our breakthrough is on the other side of our perseverance!

2. The Exodus and the Passover (Exodus 12:29-30)

Exposition:

The night of the Passover marked a pivotal moment in Israel's history. As the death angel passed over Egypt, the Israelites were sheltered by the blood of the lamb. This act of divine judgment and protection demonstrated God's sovereignty and His commitment to deliver His people from bondage. The blood of the lamb was a foreshadowing of the ultimate sacrifice—Jesus Christ.

Application:

In our lives, we must recognize the power of the blood of Jesus, our Passover Lamb. Just as the Israelites were saved through obedience and faith, we too can find salvation and deliverance from the bondage of sin. This night of liberation serves as a reminder that God is always working for our good, even when circumstances seem dire. Let us apply the

blood of Jesus over our lives and families, standing firm in faith that He will deliver us from every form of bondage!

3. The Pillar of Fire and Cloud (Exodus 13:21-22)

Exposition:

God led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. This supernatural guidance was a constant reminder of God's presence and direction. The night, often associated with fear and uncertainty, became a time of divine guidance. The fire was not just for illumination; it was a symbol of God's glory leading His people.

Application:

In our own journeys, we may find ourselves wandering through dark times. However, just as God provided a guiding light for the Israelites, He offers us His Holy Spirit to lead and direct us. We must learn to trust in His guidance, even when the path is unclear. Let us yield to the Holy Spirit's leading, allowing Him to illuminate our steps as we walk in faith!

4. David's Nighttime Escape (1 Samuel 19:11-12)

Exposition:

When King Saul sought to kill David, it was Michal's quick thinking and bravery that allowed David to escape. This event highlights the importance of divine intervention during times of peril. God's protection was evident even in the dark of night. David's escape is a testament to God's faithfulness in delivering His chosen ones from harm.

Application:

We may face threats and challenges in our lives, but we can find comfort in knowing that God is our protector. Like David, we can trust that God will provide a way of escape, often through unexpected means. In our darkest hours, we must remain vigilant and open to His guidance. Let us declare that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, for the Lord is our shield and fortress!

5. The Plague of Darkness in Egypt (Exodus 10:21-23)

Exposition:

The plague of darkness was a supernatural event that demonstrated God's power over the Egyptian gods. It served as a sign of judgment against those who oppressed His people. In the midst of darkness, God's

light shone upon the Israelites. This darkness was not just physical; it symbolized spiritual blindness and the consequences of rebellion against God.

Application:

In our lives, we may encounter spiritual darkness, but we must remember that God is the light that dispels all darkness. We are called to be bearers of that light in a world that often feels dark and hopeless. Let us shine brightly, reflecting the love and grace of Christ. In every dark situation, we have the power to proclaim the light of His truth!

6. God's Deliverance of Israel at Midnight (Judges 7:19-22)

Exposition:

Gideon's attack on the Midianite camp at midnight showcases God's strategic intervention. The confusion among the Midianites led to their defeat without a conventional battle. This event illustrates God's ability to turn the tide of battle in unexpected ways. Gideon's faith in God's instruction led to a miraculous victory.

Application:

When we face overwhelming odds, we can take heart in Gideon's story. God can bring victory in our lives through unconventional means. We must remain faithful and obedient, trusting that God will fight our battles for us. In the midnight hour of our struggles, let us lift our voices in praise, for our God is a warrior who fights on our behalf!

7. The Vision of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:1)

Exposition:

Ezekiel's night vision revealed the glory of the Lord and His sovereign plans for Israel. This encounter served as a reminder of God's authority, even in the midst of exile and despair. Ezekiel's vision was a call to action, urging the people to return to righteousness.

Application:

In our lives, we may feel distant from God, but He is always speaking. We must cultivate a heart that is open to His revelations, especially during times of uncertainty. God desires to show us His glory and guide us through our challenges. Let us seek Him with all our hearts, for He promises that when we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us!

8. The Night of the Lord's Judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-29)

Exposition:

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah at night serves as a stark reminder of God's judgment against sin. The urgency of the angels' warning to Lot emphasizes the need for repentance and the consequences of turning away from God. This event illustrates God's holiness and the seriousness of sin.

Application:

This event challenges us to examine our own lives and communities. Are we living in alignment with God's will? The night of judgment serves as a reminder that God is just and calls us to righteousness. We must be vigilant and ready to respond to His call. Let us be a voice of truth in a world that desperately needs to hear the message of repentance and redemption!

9. The Dream of Joseph (Genesis 37:5-11)

Exposition:

Joseph's dreams at night foretold his future and the future of his family. These dreams were a divine

revelation of God's plan, setting the stage for his journey to Egypt and eventual reconciliation with his brothers. God's purposes often unfold in ways we least expect.

Application:

God speaks to us through dreams and visions, often revealing His purposes for our lives. We must remain attentive to His voice, trusting that He has a plan for us, even when we cannot see the full picture. Let us be open to the dreams God places in our hearts, for they are often the seeds of our destiny!

10. The Vision of Daniel (Daniel 8:1)

Exposition:

Daniel received prophetic visions at night that revealed God's sovereignty over future kingdoms. These visions were not only for Daniel but served as a message of hope for the people of Israel. Daniel's faithfulness in prayer positioned him to receive divine revelation.

Application:

In our own lives, we can find hope in the promises of God. Like Daniel, we are called to be faithful

in seeking God's revelation, trusting that He is in control of history and our personal stories. Let us commit to prayer and fasting, positioning ourselves to hear from God and receive His guidance!

11. The Night Watchmen (Psalm 130:6)

Exposition:

The psalmist uses the imagery of watchmen waiting for the morning as a metaphor for hope and anticipation in God. This highlights the importance of patience and trust during dark times. The watchmen were vigilant, understanding that their hope was in the Lord.

Application:

We are called to be watchful and prayerful, waiting for God's intervention in our lives. Even in the darkest nights, we can have hope, knowing that joy comes in the morning. Let us be like the watchmen, anticipating the dawn of God's promises in our lives!

New Testament Events

1. Jesus Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Exposition:

In the midst of a stormy night, Jesus walked on water to reach His disciples, demonstrating His authority over nature. This miraculous event reassured the disciples of His presence and power. Jesus was not just a distant figure; He was right there in the storm with them.

Application:

In our turbulent lives, we must remember that Jesus walks with us through our storms. We can take courage, knowing that He is in control and able to calm the storms we face. Let us lift our eyes to Him, for He is our anchor in the storm!

2. The Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1-10)

Exposition:

The resurrection occurred early on the first day of the week, marking the ultimate victory over sin and death. The empty tomb is the cornerstone of our faith, demonstrating God's power to bring life from death. The resurrection signifies that no darkness can hold back the light of Jesus!

Application:

As believers, we live in the light of the resurrection. This truth empowers us to face our own challenges with hope, knowing that God can bring new life and transformation in any situation. Let us proclaim the resurrection with boldness, for it is the foundation of our faith!

3. Paul's Escape from Damascus (Acts 9:23-25)

Exposition:

Paul's escape from Damascus at night underscores God's protection and guidance. His dramatic conversion and subsequent escape illustrate God's ability to transform lives and provide safety.

Application:

God can turn our pasts into testimonies for His glory. We must trust in His ability to protect and guide us, even when we are faced with opposition. Let us declare that our past does not define us; our identity is found in Christ!

4. The Angelic Announcement to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)

Exposition:

The announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds at night signifies the breaking of dawn for humanity—the arrival of the Savior. The angel's proclamation brought hope and joy to a world in darkness.

Application:

As bearers of the good news, we are called to share the light of Christ with those around us. The shepherds' response encourages us to seek and spread the joy of the Gospel. Let us not keep this light to ourselves; let us share it with a world in desperate need!

5. Jesus Praying in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

Exposition:

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed fervently during the night before His crucifixion. This moment highlights His humanity and the weight of the burden He carried for our salvation.

Application:

Prayer is our lifeline in times of crisis. Like Jesus, we must seek God earnestly, especially when facing difficult decisions or trials. Our nights of prayer can lead to strength and clarity. Let us commit to a life of

prayer, knowing that it is our source of power!

6. The Arrest of Jesus (Matthew 26:47-56)

Exposition:

Jesus' arrest at night illustrates the culmination of betrayal and the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. The darkness surrounding this event symbolizes the spiritual battle between good and evil.

Application:

In our lives, we may face betrayal and darkness, but we can trust that God is working all things for our good. Jesus' willingness to endure suffering reminds us of the depth of His love. Let us remain steadfast in our faith, knowing that God is in control!

7. The Conversion of the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:25-34)

Exposition:

While imprisoned, Paul and Silas sang hymns at midnight, leading to a miraculous earthquake that freed them. This event resulted in the jailer's conversion and a transformative moment for his household.

Application:

Our praise in difficult circumstances can lead to breakthroughs. Like Paul and Silas, we must choose to worship God even in our darkest moments, trusting that He is at work. Let our songs of praise rise up, for they have the power to shake the foundations of our prisons!

8. The Appearance of the Risen Christ (John 20:19)

Exposition:

Jesus appeared to His disciples at night, bringing peace and reassurance after His resurrection. This encounter transformed their fear into boldness for the mission ahead.

Application:

In times of fear and uncertainty, we can encounter the peace of Christ. He meets us in our struggles, offering comfort and empowerment for the tasks He has called us to. Let us embrace His peace, knowing that He is with us always!

9. The Vision of Paul in Troas (Acts 16:9-10)

Exposition:

Paul received a vision during the night, calling him to Macedonia. This divine guidance set the stage for significant missionary work and the spread of the Gospel.

Application:

God speaks to us in various ways, including through dreams and visions. We must be attentive to His leading, ready to respond to His call to reach others for Christ. Let us be open to the divine assignments God places before us!

10. Peter's Miraculous Escape from Prison (Acts 12:6-11)

Exposition:

Peter's escape from prison by an angel during the night illustrates God's direct intervention. This miraculous event highlights the power of prayer and God's ability to deliver His people.

Application:

In our moments of captivity—be it sin, fear, or despair—we can trust in God's ability to deliver us. Prayer is a powerful tool that invites God's intervention in our lives. Let us pray fervently,

knowing that God hears and answers our cries!

11. The Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-9)

Exposition:

The transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, often associated with nighttime imagery, revealed His divine glory. This moment affirmed His identity as the Son of God before His disciples.

Application:

We are called to seek encounters with God that transform us. Just as the disciples witnessed Jesus' glory, we too can experience His presence in our lives, leading to deeper faith and commitment. Let us pursue God's glory, for it is in His presence that we are changed!

12. The Great Earthquake at Midnight (Matthew 27:51-53)

Exposition:

At the moment of Jesus' death, a great earthquake occurred, symbolizing the cosmic significance of His sacrifice. This event marked the culmination of God's redemptive plan for humanity.

Application:

The cross is a reminder of the depth of God's love and sacrifice. We must live in light of the resurrection, allowing the reality of Christ's victory to shape our lives and witness. Let us carry the message of the cross, for it is the power of God unto salvation!

Themes of Divine Intervention During the Night

- **Supernatural Protection:** The narratives illustrate God's protective hand over His people during times of danger. He is active even in the darkest hours, reminding us that we are never alone.
- **Divine Guidance:** Nighttime encounters lead to significant guidance through dreams, visions, and angelic appearances. We must remain open to His voice, trusting in His direction.
- **Miraculous Deliverance:** Many stories emphasize God's ability to deliver His people from bondage, fear, and despair. We can have faith that God can bring about miraculous change at any hour.
- **Divine Calling and Empowerment:** God often calls individuals during the night, empowering them for their future roles. We must be attentive to His calling and ready to respond.
- **Judgment and Righteousness:** Nighttime events serve as reminders of God's judgment and the importance of living righteously. We are called to

reflect His holiness in our lives.

Conclusion

As we reflect on these biblical events, we are reminded that God is active and present in our lives, especially during the nighttime hours. Whether we find ourselves wrestling with God like Jacob, seeking guidance like Solomon, or experiencing miraculous deliverance like Peter, we can trust that God is with us. Let us embrace the lessons learned from these encounters and seek to live in the light of His presence, knowing that even in our darkest nights, God is working for our good and His glory.

May we be encouraged to share the light of Christ with others, bringing hope to those who find themselves in darkness. Amen.

Written By Elder Keith Joel Walker
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