

A Song in the Night

When we face adversity, worship may be the last thing to cross our minds. Yet there is great power in responding to ‘the night seasons’ of life with worship. That is what we are going to see in God’s word today.

Opening Scripture: Psalms 16:7-9

*I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the **night seasons**. I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.*

1. There are ‘night seasons’ in life

‘Night seasons’ speaks of times of adversity. There are ‘night seasons’ in this life. Only heaven will be a place of uninterrupted light and unchanging joy. That is why Revelation 21:23 says that there will be no night in heaven – the glory of the Lamb (Jesus) will shine continually! However, while we live in this earth, there will be day and there will be night.

2. How to respond to the night seasons?

- a) **Remember that ‘night seasons’ are just that, seasons – they are not forever!**

Job 7:3-4 - *So I have been allotted months of futility, and wearisome nights have been appointed to me. ⁴ When I lie down, I say, ‘When shall I arise, and **the night be ended?**’ For I have had my fill of tossing till dawn.*

Job’s ‘night’ was more like a nightmare, and it looked like it was never going to end. However, it did!

Psalms 30:5b - *... Weeping may endure for **a night**, but joy comes in the morning.*

The sun will always rise, and we can expect the Lord’s joy.

Job 8:21NLT - *He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 - *For our light affliction, which is but for **a moment**, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

- b) **Remember to bless the Lord.**

“I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons. “

Job's wife, said to him, 'curse your God and die' (Job 2:9), however, in this passage David said, *I will bless the Lord!* In the Hebrew language, the word translated 'to bless', also means *to praise as an act of adoration, to kneel, to salute.*

Praise always precedes the victory. We bless God, we thank Him, we worship Him in the trial, in the night, before any evidence of a sunrise or any victory – and victory will come.

1 Corinthians 15:57 - *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The word 'thanks' comes before the word 'victory'

2 Corinthians 2:14a - *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ*

3. The power of a song in the night

The best way to respond to a night seasons of life is with a song to God - in the night!

Psalms 42:8 - *The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and **in the night His song shall be with me**— a prayer to the God of my life.*

a) In the night seasons of life, it is not time to quit. He is '*the God of my life*' – my whole life, not just in the good days, but in the bad days also – in the daytime and also in the nighttime!

b) *In the night His song shall be with me – a prayer to the God of my life*

The greatest prayer we can pray in the night seasons of life is to sing His song, to sing His worship. Worship is the highest form of prayer and the greatest act of faith! Anyone can worship in the daytime, when His lovingkindness is evident, but it takes faith to worship Him when its dark and you feel vulnerable.

Job 35:10 - *But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives **songs in the night?***

God is our Maker and he gives us songs in the night. He is a skilful composer of melodies that you can sing back to Him. He gives a song in the night! In fact, He longs to change the sound of our lives. He wants to turn our mourning into dancing. (Psl. 30:11-12)

Psalms 40:3 - *He has put a **new song** in my mouth— praise to our God; many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord.*

God wants to change the sound of your life.

Psalms 77:1-2- *I cried out to God with my voice— to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. ² In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hand was stretched out in the **night** without ceasing; my soul refused to be comforted. [...]. **V.6** - I call*

to remembrance **my song in the night**; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search.

I call to remembrance my song in the night – Some songs are to be remembered in the night seasons of life. We need to sing them again and again.

Isaiah 30:29- *You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute, to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel.*

You shall have a song in the night! Paul and Silas had a song in their night:

Acts 16:25 - *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

Our songs will shake prisons walls and every Jericho wall standing in our way.

Concluding words

Psalms 137:1-4 - *By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. ² We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. ³ For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, and those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” ⁴ How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?*

The Jewish people were in exile during this time.

By the rivers of Babylon we sat down. In those days, sitting down was the position of mourning. God’s people acted as mourners at a funeral and their pain was so great that they hung their harps upon the willows.

They forgot two things that we covered today:

- a) Firstly, that **night seasons are just that: seasons**. They are not forever. The sun will rise again. One day their exile also came to an end.
- b) They forgot to **bless the Lord**. They hung their harps in the willows. They gave up. There is a type of willow called ‘weeping willow’ – maybe that is where they sat.

However, God didn’t give up on them and caused them to sing again!

Maybe you have lost your song, maybe you have hung your harp, but the Lord is going to give you your song again!

Psalms 126:1-3 - *When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.*