

Midnight Bible Stories

By Ty Robinson (starting May 2018)

Introduction

The Bible is The Word of God, and The Word of God references our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. REVELATION 19:13 defines The Word of God noting that it is one of the many names of Jesus. REVELATION 19:13 *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.* Thus we see that The Word of God is synonymous with Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, and as such we find Him mentioned on every page in the Bible. And our Bible is a book composed of sixty-six books, written by forty well tested authors, all of which tell stories that encourage our faith in Christ Jesus. The variety of word pictures found in The Word of God are endless, especially when enlightened by the power of the Holy Ghost. We all have our favorite portions of scripture, which are highlighted in our heart, and perhaps even underlined in our Bible. There are also many common themes found throughout all scripture such as redemption, love, faith, trust, salvation, grace, trials, tests, overcoming, plus many more, all of which help tell the uplifting story of Jesus the Lamb of God, and His working in our hearts and lives.

All of that was said to introduce our subject matter for this study, which is **midnight** Bible stories. Perhaps there is a better way to think about this, for on the surface **midnight** Bible stories doesn't quite get to the heart of what this study will be about. I have an old note written above HEBREWS 11 in my old Bible quoting what Brother Hill said during one of his Bible studies, and this note reads; "the darkest of times brought forth the heroes of faith." Many Old Testament heroes of faith are mentioned in HEBREWS 11, and these worthies of faith all had faced dark **midnight** trials in their lives; tests that proved them to be icons of faith. We just finished studying HEBREWS 12:1 & 2 where we found the encouragement for us to be New Testament full overcomers of faith such as will be found in those who qualify to be the Lamb's wife. The tests from the darkest of times will bring forth the Bride of Christ also. We find that there are dozens of examples in The Word of God of **midnight** Bible stories that have been given us to encourage us to also be full overcomers, so we will study some of these events.

Midnight Defined

Midnight as we will define it here is the darkest part of the night, and in a metaphorical sense, the time when our test, or our trial appears to have reached it's darkest, and seemingly hopeless point. It will be the darkest of times that we will focus upon during this study, for there we find the warriors of faith in action. Warriors of faith define the full overcomers. Please take the time to review "The Warfare of the Believer" study book that Brother Hill wrote/preached upon back in 1988.

The word "**midnight**" itself is found fourteen times in the Bible with two basic meanings. One expresses the thought that **midnight** occurs in the middle of the night, and the other expresses the darkness of gloom found at the **midnight** hours. "**Midnight**" can be expressed in literal terms, in figurative terms, and in spiritual terms. The full overcomer will face many "**midnight's**" (darkest of times) in spiritual terms throughout his or her lifetime. All the Old Testament worthies of faith did, and the New Testament worthies of faith will too. How did the Old Testament worthies of faith obtain faith? How do the New Testament full overcomers obtain faith? ROMANS 10:17 answers this question pointing us again to The Word of God, who is Jesus. ROMANS 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* All of the full overcomers whether from Old Testament times or from the New Testament church age heard the word of God and believed Him. Grant it not all of the Old Testament worthies of faith had the written word of God to study, but they all some where along their course in life heard the word of the Lord, received the word of the Lord, and believed The Word of God. Our Apostle Paul who wrote *...So then faith cometh by hearing, and*

hearing by the word of God... also faced many “**midnight’s**” throughout his Christian lifetime, and is an example to us of what a warrior of faith is, and we will talk about some of his **midnight** times in this study Lord willing. The sweet psalmist of Israel, David wrote in PSALMS 34:19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.* The afflictions of the righteous are often the source of **midnight** Bible stories.

The fact that “**midnight**” is found fourteen times in scripture also points to DELIVERANCE or SALVATION, which is the meanings behind the number fourteen. The Lord is our DELIVERER, our SALVATION. Thus we should see the Lord ever present, and ever active in our darkest **midnight** hour. In JOHN 3 Nicodemus came to Jesus by night inquiring about DELIVERANCE and SALVATION. No doubt this was a **midnight** time in his life. Jesus told Nicodemus in verse 7: *Ye must be born again.* Jesus then told Nicodemus the way of SALVATION, saying in JOHN 3:14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.* Jesus told Nicodemus about the light, which is Jesus Himself, the true Light of the world, who sheds light at the darkest of **midnight** times. Jesus said in JOHN 8:12 *...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* And again in JOHN 9:5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* In total we find Nicodemus mentioned five times in scripture. Perhaps this hints at the fact that Nicodemus believed in SALVATION by GRACE. Three of the five scriptures that mention Nicodemus tells how it was the same Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night, which time again was no doubt a **midnight** time in Nicodemus’ life.

DELIVERANCE or SALVATION is again emphasized in the first two portions of scripture where we find the word **midnight**, which takes us back to EXODUS 11 & 12. In this **midnight** Bible story we find the children of Israel just about to be delivered from Egypt where they had been in bondage for four hundred plus years. This story pictures the DELIVERANCE and SALVATION that is ours by believing that Jesus Christ our Lord is indeed our Passover. Paul writes this in 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7 *For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.* The Passover foreshadows Christ’s death upon the cross. The Passover lamb was slain in EXODUS 12 teaching redemption by blood.

EXODUS 11:1 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. 2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow (ask or require) of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. 3 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people. 4 And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About **midnight** will I go out into the midst of Egypt: 5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. 6 And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. 7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.* Here the word “**midnight**” expresses the thought of the middle of the night, and figures the darkest time of the night.

We next read the word “**midnight**” in EXODUS 12. Between the verses we just read, and those we are about to read, the Lord instituted the Passover, which you can study further on your own. Then we read in EXODUS 12:28 *And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 29 And it came to pass, that at **midnight** (the darkest hour of the night) the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, (this is a **midnight** Bible story) and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. 33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. 34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. 35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: 36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled (plundered; took heavy payment; took a toll; took away all their goods from) the Egyptians.*

Thus the Lord DELIVERED the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, their land of bondage. EXODUS 12:42 states this of that night: *It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.* This observance of that night is called the Passover. EXODUS 12:51 *And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.* So we see how DELIVERANCE and SALVATION is expressed in these two chapters where the word “**midnight**” is first found in our Bible.

Moses and the Red Sea

In EXODUS 14 we find the story of the crossing of the Red Sea. The crossing of the Red Sea pictures to us our salvation. The children of Israel only crossed the Red Sea once, and we are only saved once; once and for all. We are born only once, and we are born again only once. When we get saved what do we have? Everlasting life. JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ...36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.* JOHN 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* The Father's hand is the same strong and mighty hand that delivered Israel out of the land of Egypt.

So what does the crossing of the Red Sea have to do with our study of **midnight** Bible stories? Remember the thought from a note in my Bible of how the darkest of times brought forth the heroes of faith? The darkest of times are **midnight** hours when all hope of being saved is taken away. It was the darkest of times for the children of Israel when in EXODUS 14 they faced the uncrossable Red Sea in front of them, and the well trained, and well equipped Egyptian army behind them. This then is the setting as we begin reading in EXODUS 14:13 *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. 15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and*