

ACTS 12:18 *Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.* The Lord had set Peter free from Herod's prison at a **midnight** hour, hiding his departure from those who were charged with guarding him. The Lord hid Peter at a **midnight** hour, and the Lord was still hiding Peter as soon as it was day. The light of day revealed unto the soldiers first that Peter was gone! Obviously there would have been a great commotion amongst the soldiers as to how Peter could have possibly escaped, especially since there were sixteen soldiers assigned to Peter for the purpose of holding him secure until after Passover. Certainly there was a diligent search for Peter, but the Lord had him safely hid for He wasn't yet through with Peter.

Remember Herod's intentions were after Passover to bring Peter forth unto the people to have Peter killed before their eyes. "Herod is a striking shadow of anti-Christ," Brother Copley writes in his study book on ACTS. Study Brother Copley's study book and see the types, and shadows presented in ACTS 12. Our **midnight** Bible story of Peter's **midnight** escape from Herod's prison really concludes in ACTS 12:19, which reads: *And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.* Herod sought for Peter, found him not, and had the four quaternions of soldiers responsible for keeping Peter killed. Study the rest of ACTS 12 for yourself, and see that the Lord got vengeance upon Herod, when Herod set himself up as god. ACTS 12:23 tells of Herod's death, which occurred in 44 A.D. -- *And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.* Peter is mentioned again in ACTS 15, but for the most part the rest of the book of ACTS concerns the ministry of the Apostle Paul. Meanwhile the ministry of Peter continued for about another twenty years of so, and we read in ACTS 12:24 *But the word of God grew and multiplied.*

We will conclude our **midnight** Bible story of Peter's **midnight** escape from Herod's prison by reading a couple of Peter's own encouragements, written near the end of his life. In 1 PETER 5:10 Peter noted that we all would have **midnight** tests in this statement: *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.* Then once again Peter's own final words written in 2 PETER 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

Midnight Light

There has been a common theme expressed in the **midnight** Bible stories we have examined so far in this study, and that theme is that even in the darkest of **midnight** times God, who specializes in the impossible, delivers, and gives an exceeding abundant far more than we could even think of or ask for positive results to magnify His eternal glory. We noted early on in this study that the darkest of **midnight** times brought forth the heroes of faith highlighted in scripture. Lord willing we will discuss some more specific **midnight** Bible stories in future lessons, but in this portion we will see that truly God does not want us to be left alone in the darkness of **midnight** times.

We first see that God does not want us to be left alone in the darkness of **midnight** times in the first chapter of GENESIS. GENESIS 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.* Note here that there was great darkness upon the earth before there was light, *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.* Before man was created, God created the environment in which man was to live, and it was not to be in total darkness. We are going to read some more here in GENESIS 1, but first let's note a verse the Apostle John wrote in 1 JOHN 1:5 *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* A couple of verses later John further encourages us to "walk in the light," stating in 1 JOHN 1:7 *But if we walk in the*

light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. Now let's read a few more verses in GENESIS 1. GENESIS 1:14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.* Note here that God created light for the day, and light for the night so that we would never be in total darkness even on the darkest **midnight**. He even made the stars also, and the implication being that even on the darkest **midnight** one can still see by the light of the stars. I have personally witnessed this many times in my life. When flying on a moonless night I could still see where the horizon was because the stars were visible above the horizon. Another time while setting out snow goose decoys at night, once my eyes got used to the limited light, I could see where I was to walk by starlight. The point of noting this is to emphasize that God does not want us to be left alone in the darkness of **midnight**, so as GENESIS 1:16 tells us *...he made the stars also.* The stars too shed **midnight** light. Remember what we just read above in 1 JOHN 1:5 *...that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...* so even at the time of our darkest **midnight** tests He gives light, for God is light.

A good Bible study sometime would be to look up the fifty scriptures found in the Bible that contain the word "stars." Fifty is the number of PENTECOST, the HOLY SPIRIT, and JUBILEE, and the Holy Spirit certainly inspired the Psalmist, probably David, to write the following PSALMS, which were Israel's song book. We will start in PSALMS 8, but before we read from this PSALMS, think about this. In ACTS 16:25 we find a **midnight** setting, which, Lord willing, we will study in detail later, but we read this in ACTS 16:25 *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.* Paul and Silas sang praises at **midnight**, so they being brought up sing from the PSALMS, may have sang some PSALMS songs at this dark **midnight** hour. This psalm David did write: PSALMS 8:3 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him?* David did a lot of considering in his lifetime, and often he did so at **midnight** hours, beginning with watching his fathers sheep in **midnight** light. We see in this 8th PSALM that he was over whelmed with what he saw in the unpolluted **midnight** sky of his day. A **midnight** light prompted a psalmist to write in PSALMS 119:62 *At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.* Our **midnight** Bible stories study has highlighted **midnight** light.

Another PSALMS that reflects upon God's creation, which we just read about in GENESIS 1, is PSALMS 136, which we will now read, and note in verse 9 the mention again of "stars." PSALMS 136:1 *O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever. 3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever. 4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever. 5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever. 6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever. 7 To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever: 8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever: 9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever. 10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever: 11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever: 12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever. 13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever: 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever: 15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever. 16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever. 17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever: 18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever: 19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever: 20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his*

mercy endureth for ever: 21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever: 22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever. 23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever: 24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever. 25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever. 26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever. I can imagine Paul and Silas singing this ACTS 16 during their **midnight** test!

Next we will read a few verses from PSALMS 147 & 148, seeing again **midnight** light in the stars. PSALMS 147:1 *Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. 2 The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. 3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. 4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. 5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. 6 The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.*

7 Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God. Was verse 7 the inspiration behind what the Apostle Paul wrote in EPHESIANS 5:19, and COLOSSIANS 3:16? EPHESIANS 5:19 *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.* COLOSSIANS 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* PSALMS 148:1 *Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. 6 He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.* The stars, who God has numbered, and calls them by name, are all stars of light; **midnight** light, and they point to the fact ...*that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...* 1 JOHN 1:5.

The point of discussing **midnight** light in this portion of our **midnight** Bible stories study is simply to note that since creation it has always been God's plan for we believers not to be left alone in the darkness of **midnight** times. He gave us light, even **midnight** light, and in the Lord He gave us His everlasting light. Yes indeed the darkest of times brought forth the heroes of faith, and bridal Saints **midnight** tests will in the end be manifest as her light as noted in REVELATION 21:11.