

The background of the slide is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh. It depicts a night sky with a turbulent, swirling blue and white pattern, punctuated by numerous bright, glowing yellow stars and a large, luminous crescent moon in the upper right. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted cypress tree stands on the left, and a small, dark town is visible in the distance under the starry sky.

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Isaiah 21:6-12

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

- It is 689 BC and the world is in chaos. The Babylonian Empire is under attack by the Assyrians.
- God's people were waiting for war and certain attack on Palestine.
- God commanded the prophet Isaiah to take the role of a watchman.
- Isaiah speaks of the burden of Dumah; it is not literal location in this world.
- "The name as it stands here is symbolical, and without any demonstrable topographical application. Dumah is deep, utter silence, and is therefore the land of the dead." (*Keil and Delitsch*)
- It is used to represent Edom in the land of Idumea.

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

- Edom was wondering how goes the war and will it come to their doorstep.
- They were looking for deliverance from the night of the Assyrian threat. So they cry out to Isaiah, “Watchman, tell us of the night.”
- His response: “The morning comes, and also the night. If you will inquire, inquire; Return! Come back!”
- However, the morning was coming for Judah and the night for Edom.
- If they wanted to be saved from the Assyrians, they would have to leave Edom and return to God.

# The Watchman

- He is God's messenger.
  - Ez. 3:17-21 - "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand."
- He must give the message, whether it is good or bad, to all, whether they are good or bad.

# The Watchman

- He must not:
- Be a respecter of persons.
  - Rom. 2:11 - “For there is no partiality with God.”
  - Acts 10:34 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.’”

# The Watchman

- He must not:
- Purpose to please men, but seek to save them.
  - Gal. 1:10 - “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

# The Watchman

- He must not:
- Compromise the message.
  - 1Kings 22:14 - “Micaiah said, ‘As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak.’”
  - Gal. 1:8-9 - “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”
  - Acts 20:26-27 - “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

# The Watchman

- Now, we are the watchmen.
  - 1Thes.5:4-5 - “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”
  - Acts 26:18 - “To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”



# The Watchman

- Shout the message.
  - Isa. 58:1 - “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.”
  - Hosea: 8:1 - “Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law.”
- Will we do the work of the watchmen, or stand idle by as souls around us die in sin?

# The Night

- The night is dark and uncertain.
  - Prov. 4:19 - “The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.”
  - John 12:35 - “Then Jesus said to them, ‘A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.’”
  - John 11:10 - “But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

# The Night

- The word of the watchman illuminates the way.
  - Psalm 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”
  - John 8:12 - “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”

# The Night

- The night is dangerous, because the enemy roams the night.
  - Eph. 6:12 - “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
  - Col. 1:13 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”
  - Isa. 56:10 - “His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.”
  - Luke 6:29 - “And He spoke a parable to them: ‘Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?’”

# The Night

- The world is in the dark night of sin. Like Dumah, they have no hope unless they come to the light.
  - John 3:19 - “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
  - Eph. 2:12 - “That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”
  - 1Thes.5:7 - “For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.”

# The Message

- The morning is coming. There was going to be a restoration for Israel.
- The morning is coming for the faithful and righteous.
  - 2Peter 1:19 - “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”
  - Rev. 22:16 - “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

# The Message

- But the night will continue for Edom and the unsaved.
  - 2Peter 2:4, 17 - “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment... 17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”

# The Message

- Edom was exhorted to inquire concerning the Lord's message and repent.
- So also today, the lost are exhorted to heed the Lord's word and repent.
  - 2Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."
  - Acts 17:30-31 - "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."