

Fresh Oil Releases

Emerging From the Night of Trial

Part One

St John of the Cross first coined the phrase 'the dark night of the soul' and many a saint who has sincerely desired a deeper experience of Christ has found himself or herself plunged into this experience. Having declared in prayer that they want all that Christ has for them, instead of finding an instant and glorious answer to their heart's cry, they have found themselves on a path that grows steadily darker and more traumatic. Not only is this confusing but the length and intensity of the trial repeatedly threatens to extinguish our flickering flame of faith in the goodness of God. However, one thing must never be forgotten - Genesis 1 teaches us that God's day begins at night.

Gen 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

In order to launch a new day in our spiritual experience, God is required to set in motion a sunset and a night. Only after this, can the dawn of a new day break forth. There is no other path to the future but via the dark passageway of the night and the night has four watches; 6-9pm, 9-12pm, 12-3pm and 3-6pm. The first watch is a time of increasing darkness, a time when the light of the sun is removed. The second and third watch are times of intense darkness, a time when one is unable to work at the normal activities of the day or really make any sense of what is around you.

The fourth watch is the watch that introduces the new day; the watch of steadily increasing light; the watch that heralds the end of a long night. Since the beginning of creation every night has ended with a fourth watch and this is our daily reminder that every trial, no matter how long, also draws to a close and the much-awaited new day breaks forth. However this is not a sudden and explosive arrival of the sun, but rather a gradual retreat of the darkness as the first rays of sunlight extend their fingers over the horizon long before the full fiery orb is visible to us. So too, the fourth watch of the dark night of the soul possesses this spiritual dynamic. This period in the trial God has appointed us contains steadily increasing signs of the retreat of the forces of darkness and the approach of light and God's tangible presence in our situation. This verse in Isaiah 49 gives a beautiful depiction of the time of the fourth watch!

Isa 49:14 But Zion said, The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me. Isa 49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget you. Isa 49:17 Your children and your builders make haste; your destroyers and they that made you waste depart from you.

In the darkest part of our night of trial, we are overwhelmed with a sense that God has forgotten us. Yet He promises that He is incapable of doing so and as the spiritual time clock ticks on, the third watch draws to a close and a season of diminishing darkness and increasing light arrives. We enter a time when God commands 'the builders' to speedily make their way towards you in order to rebuild every ruined place in your life. This command released in the heavenly realm also causes all that has laid you waste to begin to retreat in the face of the advancing army of light rays.

Many people avoid the book of Job as it seems to contain scenes that disconcert our neat little theological boxes. God does not seem to behave in the way the purporters of the Prosperity Gospel

teach. The very first verse seems to describe a man who should be continuously living in overflowing prosperity and blessing:

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and shunned evil.

Yet as the sorry tale unfolds, we hear he is sinking further and further into a very dark night of the soul - and it seems God has given permission for it to happen!! For all those in the midst of a fiery trial, let the above verse be a comfort to you. You may have been told by other well-meaning saints that you have brought this situation upon yourself because of your sinful state. Yet, right at the beginning of the book of Job, God inserts this clarifying statement. You can be perfect and upright and walking in the fear of God and fleeing from evil and yet you may find yourself in an appointment that increasing feels like a horror movie. You can be doing everything right spiritually, yet God gives permission for the night of a new day to unfold in your life. I would even go so far as to say that it is God's choice saints, the ones that He boasts of when the courts of Heaven gather, that are appointed a fiery trial.

Job 1:8 And the LORD said to satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and shuns evil? Job 1:9 Then satan answered the LORD, and said, Does Job fear God for nothing?

Just as in the case of Simon Peter, satan makes a request to sift Job like wheat. He is not convinced that this man is an authentic silver vessel. He is convinced Job is just silver-plated and wants to prove that if he is assaulted enough, the thin layer of silver will be scratched off to reveal the inferior substance beneath. The dark night of the soul is set in motion to prove your authenticity as a son of God. The book of Peter says this:

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality, as though something strange (unusual and alien to you and your position) were befalling you. ¹³But insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory [full of radiance and splendor] is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph [exultantly].

The fiery trial is to test your quality. Only those who are the real deal get to share His glory. There is a phrase 'testing your mettle' which means 'to discern the true character of an individual'. In a play on words, the dark night of the soul is in order to test your 'metal'. All over the world, saints are undergoing a 'mettle test' because God has launched a new day in His calendar and of course this necessitates a journey through the night. Be comforted that you are part of a vast company who are moving step by step through their individually tailored dark nights towards the dawn of a new day in God. This is the day of His glory, the day when judgment is passed in favor of the saints and they possess the kingdom; the day when all stumbling blocks are removed and the righteous shine in the kingdom of their Father; the day when the Son of Righteousness arises with healing in His wings and those who fear God go forth and rejoice as calves released from the stall! How we look forward by faith to this moment - and the sure knowledge of its coming is what keeps us putting one foot in front of other while the darkness still surrounds us!

The story of Job's dark night of the soul clearly depicts the four watches of the night. During the first watch of the period of trial, the attack is directed against his family and possessions. In one day he loses all his servants, livestock and children. It must have felt like a tornado from hell had been unleashed against him. Yet Job passed the test.

Job 1:20 Then Job rose, and tore his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there: the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

In spite of the intense horror of his losses, Job displays the true state of his surrendered heart as the first watch of his night draws to a close. All that he has been blessed with has come from God and Job acknowledges the lordship of God over his life. The outer layer of silver is deeply scratched and still silver shows underneath. Beloved, as the first watch of the night of trial is unleashed upon you, it only serves to display the quality of your surrender. You have honoured Him with your lips. Now the first stage of the mettle test shows your true quality. Jesus truly is LORD. Your children and your possessions are not idols in your heart.

The first watch of the night is the time when the last rays of light of the preceding day flee and you begin to see with less and less clarity. The revelation (light) of the spiritual day you have just walked through no longer helps your walk in the natural realm. You are about to discover just how much your relationship with God has been influenced by what you can see or discern around you. It is as if God gives satan permission to dim the lights progressively until you cannot rely on your natural or soulish understanding at all. Any soulish teaching you have absorbed will be found to be totally unhelpful in the circumstances you now face. So the night of trial serves as a threshing floor of your belief system; sifting out any soulish understanding or doctrine of man masquerading as Truth.

Jam 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you are involved in various trials, Jam 1:3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Jam 1:4 But you must let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

During the second watch of Job's night, satan receives permission to take his assault to a completely different level. Previously, the attack was directed at people close to Job and his wealth. Now as he enters the first period of full darkness, the attack is focussed on Job's own body.

Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan: 'Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a whole-hearted and an upright man, one that fears God, and shuns evil? and he still holds fast his integrity, although you did move Me against him, to destroy him without cause.' Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said: 'Skin for skin, yes, all that a man has will he give for his life. Job 2:5 But put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, surely he will blaspheme You to Your face.' Job 2:6 And the LORD said to Satan: 'Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.'

The mettle test of the second and third watch of the night reveal all other idols in our lives, whether they be the idols of self or even our own doctrines. They herald the fiery trial that brings to the surface the dross of the fear of man, self-righteousness and pride. Only when satan touched Job's body did he begin to argue with God and proclaim his own spirituality and self-righteousness. However this did not happen straight away. Initially he still said all the right things.

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, Do you still retain your integrity? curse God, and die. Job 2:10 But he said to her, You speak like one of the foolish women. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Note that along with the bodily trial, satan begins to stir up others to comment on your situation. He ushers in the ones nearest and dearest to you to assist in turning up the heat. Job seems to pass the test once again as the words of his lips honour God. However, only when the fire is really hot, does all the hidden dross come to the surface. For the second watch of his night Job manages to keep up a spiritual profile even though sorely tried and suffering greatly. The second watch proves that even Job's other half, his wife, is not an idol in his heart. She is unable to cause him to let go of the fear of God.

However, satan now gathers his most lethal arsenal in an attempt to prove His case. As the second watch draws to a close, he ushers in Job's greatest friends.

Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him. Job 2:12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and did not recognize him, they lifted up their voices, and wept; and they tore their mantles, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. Job 2:13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

They come in a show of moral support and are so shocked as they see his outer condition that they are speechless for a whole week!! This period is like the midnight hour when it seems we are crossing over and the worst is past. We are no longer alone in our suffering for spiritually minded 'friends' have gathered to comfort us. Just their presence in our lives helps at this time and because they are not saying anything, just 'being there' for us, we do not discern that we are entering the most dangerous time in the fiery trial. Because their mouths are shut does not mean their hearts are not very busy trying our case. They are silently rehearsing their roles as both lawyers for the defense and the prosecution AND all are quite secure in their certainty that their grasp of the situation will successfully bring your case to a close! People judge the situations of others from the outside. They are not in possession of all the facts because only God can see the heart!

The third watch of the night is the time when we have a sense of losing our spiritual compass. We do not know which way we are facing and are easily influenced by counsel from others. The darkness is so dense that we can almost reach out and touch it! Feelings of despair and hopelessness overwhelm us and we say things we would never have dreamed of saying during the first two watches - things like "I wish I had never been born!" As soon as Job says this, it seems to be the signal for his friends to begin to utter what has been fermenting in their hearts all along!

The third watch is the season when God makes manifest the counsels of mens' hearts so that the hidden things can be revealed. Then one is able to judge with accuracy during the fourth watch. During the third watch there is arguing and debating back and forth on spiritual issues and as one reads what Job's friends said to him, at first glance there seems to be nothing wrong with their spiritual reasoning. However, God declares at the end of the trial that none of these men spoke of Him what was right! (Job 42:7) Beloved, the doctrines of man and the soulish understanding of the ways of God can appear very spiritual during the third watch. Because one can see nothing oneself,

it is easy to be swayed by these arguments. However God declares that these men spoke from a position of ignorance! Sometimes the Christians who have the most advice to give you in the third watch of your trial actually have the least understanding of God. They often reel off a lot of general knowledge of spiritual matters and what they think you should do to bring the trial to a close, but they do not speak the anointed word of counsel and wisdom that will break the yoke. They do not possess the word to speak in due season and yet they keep talking out of their natural understanding.

Because of the accusations they speak on behalf of the accuser of the brethren, any vestiges of self-righteousness lurking in the basement are brought to the surface in our hearts. Job demonstrates this as he responds to his friends vehemently. Essentially he is saying, "It's got so dark that I can't see what is happening or why, but one thing I know - it can't be that there is anything wrong with me..."

The third watch of the night is the period where much mixture exists. Error masquerades as Truth and Self-pity and Self-righteousness don black robes and take the defence stand on our behalf! The third watch draws to a close with us defending ourselves so furiously that even the Job's Comforters in our lives are rendered speechless by our arguments! Those who have come with their well-meant soulish advice can't think of anything more to say!

Job 32:1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

Unfortunately, all our talking has only served to bring to light the true state of our deepest heart. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and by the end of this watch of our dark night of the soul, all the self-righteousness and pride that normally stays hidden in the wings of our hearts has stepped out onto the stage for all to see! Those who have called themselves our friends are shocked at who we really are and have nothing more to say.

However, we can only be thankful to God when our true heart state is revealed for it brings to an end the offering of soulish counsel. Many people are devoid of true spiritual wisdom and by the end of the third watch God shuts the mouth of all fleshly false counsel in our lives. Do not be surprised if the enquiring phone calls stop and the spiritual letters of advice stop coming. God has allowed the season of fleshly counsel only to bring to the surface any flesh that needs dealing with in your own heart. When it has served its purpose as a poultice to draw out hidden infection, it is removed. And be comforted that this watch has served to reveal the hidden counsels of those who are working against you too. All evidence is being presented before the courts of heaven and then the Ancient of Days shall proclaim His flawless judgment over the situation.

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Part Two

When all has become silent again, there is an interesting development. We find in Job 32, that all along there have not been three men, but four, sitting with Job. The fourth man remains silent until the other three have ceased speaking. As the fourth watch quietly begins to tick over, there is a new voice of counsel released to us that brings the first rays of true Light we have seen since the trial began. Sometimes it comes through another person but, most often, it is just the still small voice that speaks to us within our own heart. When Elijah was hiding in the cave, he witnessed a strong destructive wind, an earthquake and a fire but the Lord was not in any of these things.

1Ki 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 1Ki 19:12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

The wind, the earthquake and the fire represent the first three watches of the night of trial but it is important to remember that God is not in any of these things. Satan unleashes the attack on Job and any words spoken before the fourth watch are not from God's mouth. However, when the third watch is over, the still small voice of True Wisdom, the voice of Christ Himself, begins to minister to us. When we have come to the end of our own wisdom He arises and begins to speak words that cause the storm to die down and peace to be restored.

In order to move from possessing the wisdom of man to walking in the wisdom of God, God allows us to pass through intense shakings, to sift and remove the chaff of earthly wisdom. Then we function from an unshakeable foundation of experiential Truth. People are able to challenge one's doctrine but no one can argue with your experience. The dark night of the soul gives one the gift of an experiential knowledge of God's character that no demon in hell can tear out of your heart. It may not feel like it during the first three watches of your night, but when the fourth watch arrives and God sends revelation of Truth for the new day, you are equipped spiritually for whatever God has written in your appointment book!

The night of the new day serves to remove from your heart all wrong understanding and mixture and to replace it with unshakeable Truth. The people who KNOW their God shall be strong and do exploits in the end times. God is Spirit and we only truly discover Him when the daylight of our natural understanding is removed. We have to come to the end of our own human wisdom before we can really rest in the unsearchable wisdom of God! It is one thing to hear of God, but quite another to 'see' or have personal revelation of Him. Job himself said this as he came to the close of his dark night of the soul.

Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; Job 42:6 Because of this, I abhor my words, and repent, seeing I am dust and ashes.

As you traverse the fourth watch of your night, the Son of Righteousness begins to arise in your life. In His light you begin to see light. The fourth watch is a period that heralds a significant change both within and without. The first rays of new light and revelation of God cause you to repent of every word you have spoken that has been a contradiction of Truth. You align your heart fully to God because you see Him as you have never seen or understood Him before. He comes with healing in His wings and you walk forth into a time of restoration and recompense in double measure just as Job did!

Elihu, who represents the voice of the Spirit of Wisdom, speaks during the fourth watch and brings understanding and a progressive increase of light.

Job 32:17 I also will answer my part, I also will declare my opinion. Job 32:18 For I am full of words; the spirit within me constrains me. Job 32:19 Behold, my inwards are as wine which has no vent; like new wine-skins which are ready to burst. Job 32:20 I will speak, that I may find relief; I will open my lips and answer. Job 32:21 Let me not, I pray you, respect any man's person; neither

will I give flattering titles to any man. Job 32:22 For I know not to give flattering titles; if I did, my Maker would soon take me away.

The counsel received during the last watch of the night is new wine, the wine of the Third Day. It is the best wine that has been kept until last. This wisdom is without flattery or any soulish manipulation. It is the Truth spoken in love and when we embrace and know this Truth, it will set us free. We will find the 'stall' we have been enclosed in, open and we can go forth like calves. The third watch is the season of flesh masquerading as spirit but God brings this to an end and the season of the division between soul and spirit arrives. With each ray of light from the Living Word, the Son, that falls on our hearts we see the situation more and more clearly. God separates the light from the darkness and we can begin to walk with more confidence as we see the traps the enemy has dug on either side of our path. The voice of Wisdom speaks in Proverbs 4:

¹⁰Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life shall be many. ¹¹I have taught you in the way of skillful and godly Wisdom [which is comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God]; I have led you in paths of uprightness. ¹²When you walk, your steps shall not be hampered [your path will be clear and open]; and when you run, you shall not stumble. ¹³Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. ¹⁴Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. ¹⁵Avoid it, do not go on it; turn from it and pass on. ¹⁶For they cannot sleep unless they have caused trouble or vexation; their sleep is taken away unless they have caused someone to fall. ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸But the path of the [uncompromisingly] just and righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines more and more (brighter and clearer) until [it reaches its full strength and glory in] the perfect day [to be prepared].

The fourth watch is not a comfortable time, as it is a time when the Spirit of the Lord deals firmly with any area that has surfaced during the third watch. We must not retreat and feel tempted to question His heart towards us at this time. In His message to the Laodecian Church, Christ says this:

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

A firm rebuke from a loving Father only serves to assure us of His intense interest and care for us.

⁶For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes. ⁷You must submit to and endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train and correct and discipline? ⁸Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all]. ⁹Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we yielded [to them] and respected [them for training us]. Shall we not much more cheerfully submit to the Father of spirits and so [truly] live? ¹⁰For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness. ¹¹For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness--in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God].

We see this very same occurrence in God's handling of Job. In Job 36 and 37, Elihu cautions Job strongly not to think of himself more highly than he ought and reminds him of the greatness and superiority of God. Then, in Job 38 and 39, God Himself speaks to Job out of a whirlwind! He basically asks Job if he is capable of doing any of the amazing works of creation or continue to keep them season after season. Then He asks Job a few searing questions and Job begins to realise he has overstepped the mark in questioning the wisdom and judgment of God in allowing this trial to unfold in his life! The Message Bible puts it like this:

Job 40:2 "Now what do you have to say for yourself? Are you going to haul me, the Mighty One, into court and press charges?" Job 40:3 Job answered: Job 40:4 "I'm speechless, in awe--words fail me. I should never have opened my mouth! Job 40:5 I've talked too much, way too much. I'm ready to shut up and listen." Job 40:6 GOD addressed Job next from the eye of the storm, and this is what he said: Job 40:7 "I have some more questions for you, and I want straight answers. Job 40:8 "Do you presume to tell me what I'm doing wrong? Are you calling me a sinner so you can be a saint? Job 40:9 Do you have an arm like my arm? Can you shout in thunder the way I can? Job 40:10 Go ahead, show your stuff. Let's see what you're made of, what you can do.

God is clearly angry with Job's attitude and finally He speaks to him of Leviathan and reveals the root of Job's problem with a telling statement at the end of His discourse:

Job 41:34 ...he is a king over all the children of pride.

This principality has inroads into Job's life because of his pride. Job wants God to be king in his heart but until he repents of his pride, he will find himself ruled and influenced in his every move by Leviathan. What a shock this must have been to Job! Yet, God has also given him hope because He declares Himself stronger than Leviathan! The only answer is for Job to repent and bring every area of his heart fully under the lordship of God. Before the trial unfolded, Job had no idea that he had a problem with pride. He had a spiritual blind-spot. The night of trial has served its purpose. In the words of the psalmist:

Psa 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. ... Psa 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

The dark night of the soul is set in motion to transport us to the morning of a new day in Christ - and in the process, every hidden area from which the enemy is able to operate is revealed. The fourth watch is a time of getting a clear view of our own hearts in the mirror. The thick darkness of the third watch retreats as God declares over us, "Let there be light". Then He separates the light from the darkness and calls a spade a spade. Once we can see ourselves and our situations clearly, it is a simple process to bring these things to the foot of the cross and repent for our part in the problem. WE are guilty - let's face it! When we stop being our own advocate and defending our every action and instead employ Jesus Christ the Righteous as our advocate and allow His blood to speak on our behalf, the court case is quickly over. Judgment is passed in favour of the saints, not because of our own feeble righteousness but because of His! ...And as we see, when Job repents, the restoration process is set in motion.

So much has been said and written about the coming time of double recompense and restoration but we must understand our part in the unfolding manifestation of this Truth.

Heb 4:12 So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees,¹³ And cut through and

make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

Before his trial, Job thought he was rich and had need of nothing but by the fourth watch, he saw himself as he really was - poor, wretched, naked and blind in an area. The fourth watch is the season when Jesus knocks and desires to enter into intimate conversation with us.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The fourth watch is a season where we have the opportunity to overcome because a season of ruling and reigning with Christ is about to break forth:

Rev 3:21 To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

In Revelation 12, the birthing of a corporate Son is described:

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

The violent birth pangs and arduous journey down the birth canal of the dark night of the soul culminate in a glorious afterward - a catching up and a seating in order to rule and reign with Christ. It is no coincidence that the book of Job has 42 chapters. There are 42 weeks from the beginning of a woman's last menstrual cycle to the date of birth. The first week is a time of cleansing of the womb; the second heralds the release of the ovum and its journey to the time of conception. In the book of Job all the players are on stage by the end of the second chapter. The remaining 40 chapters detail the development and finally the bringing forth of a whole new Job.

Job emerges symbolically from among the dead. He has been through the valley of the shadow of death and received the ministrations of God's rod and staff. Goodness and mercy have followed him on his journey and God's goodness has led him to repentance! The story of Job is the prophetic parable of the forming of the many brothers who come forth in the image of Him is the First-Born from among the dead. The first-born receives a double portion inheritance and those who are found to be in His image receive double recompense even as Job did.

Job 42:10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Job received this recompense both from the hand of man and the hand of God. He received double the amount of wealth in terms of money and livestock. There was also complete or seven-fold restoration of children to his house. All that the thief had stolen from his family was replaced. In just the same way the fourth watch heralds a time when judgment is passed in favour of the saints and they possess the kingdom!

The names of his daughters are given as a testimony of what God had accomplished by allowing the sifting of Job. Jemima means 'warmth and affection' and speaks of Job's knowledge that all he had undergone was from the hand of a God who loved him. Kezia means 'cassia' which is a cousin of

cinnamon but in cinnamon only the outer bark is fragrant. In the case of cassia, the whole plant is fragrant within and without. In essence this daughter's name is a declaration that Job has had his mettle tested and is guaranteed authentic. So too it shall be with you, beloved. You shall be declared to be a real silver and not silver plate; a real manifestation of Christ, the Word, in the earth. Keren-happuch is the name of a cosmetic used to adorn the eyes. She speaks of the adjustments God has made to Job's way of seeing things and to the fact that He makes all things beautiful in His time.

Those who have been in a long night of preparation and refinement are now in the fourth watch, the morning watch. Greet the dawn with the eye of faith and allow the ever-increasing light of Truth to have its way with your heart. God is about to make those who seemed to have become your enemies bow down at your feet and acknowledge that God has loved you. You will be given opportunity to minister humbly to them in the love of Christ, just as Job did, and see God work in their lives because God has dealt with their hearts and shown them their error. God turned Job's captivity WHEN he prayed for his friends. Your ability to minister to those who have judged, persecuted and criticised you is the power that turns the key of your prison door. Praise God that He has engineered the process that has removed the last remaining dross from your heart! You have become mature and fully equipped, lacking nothing, just as James 1:2 says. The fire of the night of trial has made a vessel of honour, fit for the Master's use!

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