

NIGHT SONGS

TEXT: **Psalm 77:6** *I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.*

INTRO.: A. The writer of this Psalm is obviously going thru one of the greatest times of testing in his life. He is on a sick bed, maybe his death bed (v.1-3) & he asks some disturbing questions (v.7-9). [Have YOU ever done this?!] He also makes an enlightening statement (v.4-6) & speaks of his "song in the night." Job, in the middle of his afflictions speaks of these "**NIGHT SONGS.**" When defending the Lord to his "comforters" he states that the Lord gives "**songs in the night.**" (35:10)

B. Since all of us will eventually go through some dark times, we need to learn about "**NIGHT SONGS.**" We will look at 3 such songs tonight...

I. MOSES' DEATH SONG:

Deut. 31:19-22 *Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel. For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swore unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant. And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify against them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I swear. Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.*

A. The Time Of This Song:

1. His life is coming to a close.

ILLUS.: This is a time of painful remembrances of his failure in service to the Lord (32:48-52), & the resultant penalty he had to pay. Moses' ministry is over; his leadership is completed. His final act is to instruct Israel in this song which servesto remind them of their failure as well.

2. On the positive side, his wilderness wanderings are over!

B. The Theme of This Song:

1. Rock music! (32:4,31,37)
2. Convicting music! (32:16,17)
3. Condemning music! (32:39-44)

NOTE: While many country & western songs have a mournful & negative message, it is doubtful that many songs have been used to speak specifically against a people as this Song of Moses does. (31:21)

II. JESUS' FINAL* SONG: Mt.26:30 (*before Calvary - cf. Rev.15:3)

Rev.15:3 *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

A. The Savior Sings When Facing Death:

1. Jesus & His disciples had just finished celebrating the Passover, the most joyous feast on Israel's calendar.
2. That night it had turned into a time of tension, fear & suspicion for the disciples.
3. Jesus had spoken of His death, bloodshed, & His broken body!

QUOTE: Ivor Powell: "...the disciples recognized this commemoration left much to be desired. The atmosphere in the upper room was oppressive. The entire proceedings chilled their spirits; they were apprehensive, for treachery w/in their ranks had been exposed. They were mystified, for although the host had made ample preparation for their Passover requirements, the all important lamb had been neglected."

Jesus had substituted Himself, & had spoken of His body & blood. It was confusing.

B. Jesus Led His Disciples in Singing:

IBID.: *"The ceremony terminated; the time of praise had arrived. But how could broken hearts rejoice, & fearful people sing praises to God? How could they rejoice over an event in antiquity when their future was ominous? The silence was unbroken until Jesus announced the famous Hallel, and, w/His strong resonant voice pitched the tune & began to sing..."* (for 10,15 or even 20 minutes)

1. The Hallel (praise) Psalms which were sung on this occasion included the phrase **"for His mercy endureth forever"** no less than 26 times in 26 verses. Ps.136)!
2. Obviously Jesus was emphasizing something to His disciples (& to us!).

III. PAUL'S PRISON SONG: Acts 16:25

A. Praising In Adversity:

1. Paul & Silas had been severely beaten w/ *"many stripes..."* **v.22-23**
2. They were then not only imprisoned, but immobilized. **V.24**
3. All this for simply setting a demon possessed girl free!

ILLUS.: The next time we are treated shabbily or unfairly or punished for doing right, let's learn Paul's prison song or Jesus' final song (before Calvary).

B. Praising As A Witness: v.25b *"...& the prisoners heard them"*

1. We need to be careful how we respond to adversity...others are watching.
2. Will they hear pouting or praising, griping or glory, sighing or singing?!

CONCL.: Moses led Israel in a song in spite of his impending death - God wrote the words! Jesus led the disciples in singing in spite of His impending death. Paul & Silas sang while in extreme pain, immobilized, imprisoned & all for doing good!

Perhaps we need to learn from these examples...Can anyone here tonight going through the fires of testing, praise the Lord?!