

From Sunset to Sunrise

Genesis 19:23



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Text: Isa 60:20

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

- A. DEFINITIONS OF THE TOPIC.**
- B. SYMBOLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF SUNSET IN ONE'S LIFE.**
- C. IDENTIFIABLE CAUSES OF SUNSET.**
- D. CONDITIONS OF SUNRISE AFTER THE SUNSET.**
- E. HOW TO SUSTAIN YOUR SUNRISE FOR STABLE RISING.**
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A. DEFINITIONS OF THE TOPIC

a) Literally:

- **Sunset** – The time in the evening when the daylight fades or sun disappears.
- **Sunrise** – The time in the morning when the daylight arrives, or sun appears.
- **“From sunset to sunrise”** means the period when the daylight fades to the period of sunshine.

- **Isa 60:1** *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

b) Figuratively: “From sunset to sunrise means:

- 1) Assuring the hopeless of the imminent possible hope.
- 2) Giving a powerful message of strength to the downtrodden or defeated.
- 3) It is also an expression, quick and potent to deliver a ready mind person from committing suicide.
 - **Mic 7:8** *Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.*
- 4) It is a soul lifting message – encouraging those are made silent that they will speak again.

c) Spiritually:

- 1) It means a total restoration from invasion, desolation, sufferings, losses, and hardships.
 - **Joe 3:17** *So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her anymore.*
- 2) It means getting a permanent wealth transfer which one cannot lose forever. (Thy sun shall no longer go down)
 - **Isa 60:5** *Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*
- 3) It means bringing one back to the grace of God one lost.
Luke 15:22-24

B. SYMBOLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF SUNSET IN ONE'S LIFE.

1) Withdrawal of God's presence.

- **Judg 16:20** *And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other*

times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

- Withdrawal of God's presence means God's rejection.
- 2) **Departure of Greater Glory of God.**
 - **1Sam 4:22** *And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.*
- 3) **Defeat upon defeat by the enemy.**
 - **Lam 1:16** *For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.*
- 4) **Loss of so many things, including favour, blessing, prosperity etc.**
 - **Hos 8:3** *Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.*
- 5) **Truncation of one's life span of glory.**
 - **Amos 8:9** *And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:*
- 6) **Shameful ending in the sight of God.**
 - **2Pet 2:20** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

C. IDENTIFIABLE CAUSES OF SUNSET.

- 1) **Sinful or illicit lifestyle.** E.g Fornication or adultery. Worldliness. Drunkenness. Flamboyant life.
 - **Lam 5:16** *The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!*
- 2) **Forsaking God.** E.g: going into idolatry. Engaging in the use of charm or diabolical anointing oil for money miracle.

- **Ps 89:20** *I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:*
 - **Det 32:15** *But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.*
 - **Judg 2:12** *And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.*
- 3) **Breaking the covenant of your rising in God.** E.g: stopping working for God, disengaging from attending vigils, bible study class and prayer meeting. Discontinuing from financing the work of God or payment of tithes or helping the poor or the widow. Disinterested in the work of evangelism anymore.
- **Rev 2:4** *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*
- 4) **Pride, ego, and arrogance:** Eg: Disrespecting ministers of God because of riches. Disrespecting your parents. Disrespecting your equals, and those older than you because you are richer than them.
- **Acts 12:23** *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.*
- 5) **When you forget your beginning.** i.e. overrating yourself. Down-rating your spouse. Accelerating uncontrollable high speed of affluence pursuance.
- **Deut 15:15** *And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.*
 - **Obadiah 1:4** *Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down,*

saith the LORD.

- **Wickedness and violent way of amassing wealth.** i.e. using your position to punish or suffer the innocent. Hating and setting terrible traps for anyone whom you envisage his rising like you. Succeeding in bringing someone down so that he won't be your glory running mate. Applying witchcraft power to fight for your spouse or to running the progress of somebody. Arranging armed robbers or dubious people to destroy the wealth of your brothers. Backbiting your neighbors so as to create hatred for him in the mind of those that love him. Forming scandals, or idle words against someone in order to tarnish his personality.
- **Hab 2:12** *Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!*
- **Hos 4:7** *As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.*
- **Ps 55: 23** *But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.*

6) **The Trial of God.** i.e when God wants to prune you. When God wants to break you down to remolding you. When God decides to give you the best by taking the former blessing from you.

- **1Pet 1:7** *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- **Mic 7:8** *Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.*

D. CONDITIONS OF SUNRISE AFTER THE SUNSET.

1. Return to God – otherwise the sun will not rise.

- **Amos 4:11** *I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.*
- **Luke 15:18** *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,*

2. When you are brought down, bring yourself down to God in humility and soberness of mind.

- **2Chr 7:14** *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
- **James 4:10** *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

3. Do not return to your past errors, rather, learn from them, and amend.

- **Pro 26:11** *As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.*

4. Repent genuinely from every act that condemns you.

- **Acts 3:19** *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

5. Restore whatever thing in your life which the devil can use to torment you.

- **Lev 6:4** *Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found,*
- **Luke 19:8** *And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore*

him fourfold.

- The testimony of a woman whose four children were sick at Badagry.
- **Restitution is the key to restoration!**

6. **When your way is now right before God, then, pray meaningfully.**

- **Ps 91:15** *He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

E. **HOW TO SUSTAIN YOUR SUNRISE FOR STABLE RISING.**

I. **Always remember that as God is merciful so He's terrible.**

- **Acts 10: 34-35** *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*

II. **Always remember that you're just a branch in a tree.**

- **John 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

III. **Always remember that whatever you have is graciously given. Ensure that you do not abuse grace.**

- **John 3:27** *John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

IV. **Always be cautious not to turn worldly in your affluence.**

- **1Tim 5: 6** *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*

V. **Always remember that salvation of your soul is most important.**

- **Mark 8:36** *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

F. **APPLICATIONS.**