

~NIGHT (406)

.. Hebrew Division

.. Roman Division

.. Figurative Use

• The period of darkness from sunset to sunrise was designated by Yehowah God as, Night.

• And God began calling the light Day, but the darkness he called **Night**. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a first day. (**Genesis 1:5**)

• And God went on to say; Let luminaries come to be in the expanse of the heavens to make a division between the day and the **night**, and they must **serve as signs** and for seasons and for days and years. (**Genesis 1:14**)

• Between sunset and the actual darkness there is a short period of evening **twilight** when the stars begin to be seen. This time was called *ne'sheph*, by the Hebrews and evidently is the time meant by the expression, **between the two evenings** found at;

• And it must continue under safeguard by you until the fourteenth day of this month, and the whole congregation of the assembly of Israel must slaughter it **between the two evenings**. (**Exodus 12:6**)

• In the twilight, in the evening of the day, at the approach of the **night** and the gloom. (**Proverbs 7:9**)

• Similarly, at the end of the **nights** darkness there is a morning twilight leading to the dawn, and this was expressed by the same Hebrew word. Thus, the writer at;

• I have been up early in the morning **twilight**, that I may cry for help. For your words I have waited. (**Psalms 119:147**)

• Says; I have been up early in the morning **twilight**.

.. Hebrew Division

- The Hebrews divided the **night** into watches. When I have remembered you upon my lounge, during the **night watches** I meditate on you.
- When I have remembered you upon my lounge, during the **night watches** I meditate on you. (**Psalms 63:6**)
- In time Gideon came with the hundred men who were with him to the edge of the camp at the start of the middle **night watch**. They had just got through posting the sentries. And they proceeded to blow the horns, and there was a dashing to pieces of the large water jars that were in their hands.
- Speaks of a **middle night watch**, it seems evident there were three of them in early times. It appears that each watch covered one third of the time between sundown and sunrise, or about four hours each, depending on the time of the year.
- The first watch would thus run from about 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The **middle night watch** would begin about 10:00 p.m. and run until about 2:00 a.m.
- This was a strategic time for Gideon to make his surprise attack on the Midianite camp. The **third watch** was called, the morning watch, lasting from about 2:00 a.m. till sunrise.
- It was during this morning watch that Yehowah caused the pursuing Egyptian armies to begin to experience grave difficulties in their attempted passage through the Red Sea.
- And it came about during the morning watch that Yehowah began to look out upon the camp of the Egyptians from within the pillar of fire and cloud, and he went throwing the camp of the Egyptians into confusion. (**Exodus 14:24**)
- And he kept taking wheels off their chariots so that they were driving them with difficulty, and the Egyptians began to say; Let us flee from any contact with Israel, because Yehowah certainly fights for them against the Egyptians. (**Exodus 14:25**)
- Finally Yehowah said to Moses; Stretch your hand out over the sea, that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, their war chariots and their cavalrymen. (**Exodus 14:26**)

- **Moses at once stretched his hand out over the sea, and the sea began to come back to its normal condition at the approaching of morning. All the while the Egyptians were fleeing from encountering it, but Yehowah shook the Egyptians off into the midst of the sea. ([Exodus 14:27](#))**
- **And the waters kept coming back. Finally they covered the war chariots and the cavalymen belonging to all of Pharaoh's military forces and who had gone into the sea after them. Not so much as one among them was let remain. ([Exodus 14:28](#))**
- **And it came about on the next day that Saul proceeded to put the people into three bands, and they made their way into the middle of the camp during the morning watch and went striking down the Ammonites till the day grew hot. When there proved to be some that were left over, then they were sent scattering and there were not left over among them two together.**
- **And Nahash the Ammonite proceeded to go up and camp against Jabesh in Gilead. At that all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash. Conclude a covenant with us that we may serve you. ([1 Samuel 11:1](#))**

•• Roman Division

- **At least by the time of the Roman control, the Jews adopted the Greek and Roman practice of four nocturnal watches. Jesus evidently referred to these four divisions when he said; Therefore keep on the watch, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether late in the day or at mid**night** or at cockcrowing or early in the morning.**
- **Therefore keep on the watch, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether late in the day or at mid**night** or at cockcrowing or early in the morning.**
- **And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives with the temple in view, Peter and James and John and Andrew began to ask him privately. ([Mark 13:3](#))**
- **The watch late in the day ran from sunset until about 9:00 p.m. The second watch, called the **midnight**, began about 9:00 p.m. and ended at midnight.**

- And if he arrives in the second watch, even if in the third, and finds them thus, happy are they! (**Luke 12:38**)
- The **cockcrow** covered from mid**night** till about 3:00 a.m. It was probably during this time that the cockcrowings mentioned at;
- And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the meal, a woman came with an alabaster case of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very expensive. Breaking open the alabaster case she began to pour it upon his head. (**Mark 14:3**)
- occurred. Finally, from 3:00 a.m. until sunrise was the fourth watch, early in the morning.
- But in the fourth watch period of the **night** he came to them, walking over the sea. (**Matthew 14:25**)
- And when he saw them being hard put to it in their rowing, for the wind was against them, about the **fourth watch of the night** he came toward them, walking on the sea, but he was inclined to pass them by.
- But Jesus went on to say to them; A prophet is not unhonored except in his home territory and among his relatives and in his own house. (**Mark 6:4**)

See Also COCKCROWING

- On one occasion mention is made of a specific hour of the 12 hours that make up the **nighttime**.
- And he summoned a certain two of the army officers and said; Get two hundred soldiers ready to march clear to Caesarea, also seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, at the third hour of the night. (**Acts of Apostles 23:23**)
- Tells us that it was at the third hour, or about 9:00 p.m, that the military commander ordered the troops to take Paul from Jerusalem on his way to Caesarea.
- Whereas the Jews began the new day at sunset, according to Roman custom midnight was the fixed point for ending and beginning the day. This avoided the problem resulting from the lengthening and

shortening of the daylight hours due to the seasons, as occurred when starting the day at sunset, and allowed for their dividing the day into two equal 12-hour periods at all times of the year. This is the practice in most nations today.

•• Figurative Use

- The word **night** is at times used in a figurative, or symbolic, sense in the Bible.
- We must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, the **night** is coming when no man can work.
- Now as he looked up he saw the rich dropping their gifts into the treasury chests. (**Luke 21:1**)
- Jesus spoke of the **night** coming when no man can work. Jesus here referred to the time of his **judgment, impalement, and death**, when he would be unable to engage in the works of his father.
- All that your hand finds to do, do with your very power, for there is no work nor devising nor knowledge nor wisdom in She'ol, the place to which you are going. (**Ecclesiastes 9:10**)
- Before I go away, and I shall not come back, to the land of darkness and deep shadow. (**Job 10:21**)
- To the land of obscurity like gloom, of deep shadow and disorder, where it beams no more than gloom does. (**Job 10:22**)
- Do this, too, because you people know the season, that it is already the hour for you to awake from sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers. (**Romans 13:11**)
- The **night** is well along, the day has drawn near. Let us therefore put off the works belonging to darkness and let us put on the weapons of the light. (**Romans 13:12**)
- The **night** manifestly refers to a period of darkness caused by God's Adversary, which is due to be ended by Christ Jesus and his reign.
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but

against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)

- On this account take up the complete suit of armor from God, that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have done all things thoroughly, to stand firm. (**Ephesians 6:13**)
- He delivered us from the authority of the darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of his love. (**Colossians 1:13**)
- By means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins. (**Colossians 1:14**)
- Now as for the times and the seasons, brothers, you need nothing to be written to you. (**1 Thessalonians 5:1**)
- For you yourselves know quite well that Yehowah's day is coming exactly as a thief in the **night**. (**1 Thessalonians 5:2**)
- Whenever it is that they are saying; Peace and security! Then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of distress upon a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape. (**1 Thessalonians 5:3**)
- But you, brothers, you are not in darkness, so that that day should overtake you as it would thieves. (**1 Thessalonians 5:4**)
- For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We belong neither to **night** nor to darkness. (**1 Thessalonians 5:5**)
- So, then, let us not sleep on as the rest do, but let us stay awake and keep our senses. (**1 Thessalonians 5:6**)
- For those who sleep are accustomed to sleep at **night**, and those who get drunk are usually drunk at night. (**1 Thessalonians 5:7**)
- But as for us who belong to the day, let us keep our senses and have on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (**1 Thessalonians 5:8**)
- Because God assigned us, not to wrath, but to the acquiring of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (**1 Thessalonians 5:9**)

- He died for us, that, whether we stay awake or are asleep, we should live together with him. (**1 Thessalonians 5:10**)
- Therefore keep comforting one another and building one another up, just as you are in fact doing. (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**)
- God's servants who have been enlightened by his truth are contrasted with worldly people who have not. Their way of life manifests that they are sons of light and sons of day. They belong neither to **night** nor to darkness.
- Therefore Jesus spoke again to them, saying; I am the light of the world. He that follows me will by no means walk in darkness, but will possess the light of life. (**John 8:12**)
- While you have the light, exercise faith in the light, in order to become sons of light. Jesus spoke these things and went off and hid from them. (**John 12:36**)
- I have come as a light into the world, in order, that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness. (**John 12:46**)
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (**1 Peter 2:9**)
- Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what sharing does light have with darkness? (**2 Corinthians 6:14**)
- A similar usage is found at;
- Therefore you men will have **night**, so that there will be no vision, and darkness you will have, so as not to practice divination. And the sun will certainly set upon the prophets, and the day must get dark upon them. (**Micah 3:6**)
- Where the prophet says to those rejecting true divine guidance. Therefore you men will have **night**, so that there will be no vision, and darkness you will have, so as not to practice divination. And the sun will certainly set upon the prophets, and the day must get dark upon them.

- Now this is the basis for judgment, that the light has come into the world but men have loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were wicked. ([John 3:19](#))
- For he that practices vile things hates the light and does not come to the light, in order, that his works may not be reproved. ([John 3:20](#))
- But he that does what is true comes to the light, in order, that his works may be made manifest as having been worked in harmony with God. ([John 3:21](#))
- The **night** is also used to represent, generally, a time of adversity, since the **night** with its gloom and obscurity is the time when wild beasts roam, when armies launch surprise attacks, when thieves creep in, and when other acts of evil are committed.
- You will not be afraid of anything dreadful by **night**, nor of the arrow that flies by day. ([Psalms 91:5](#))
- Nor of the pestilence that walks in the gloom, nor of the destruction that despoils at midday. ([Psalms 91:6](#))
- You cause darkness, that it may become **night**, in it all the wild animals of the forest move forth. ([Psalms 104:20](#))
- The maned young lions are roaring for the prey and for seeking their food from God himself. ([Psalms 104:21](#))
- My heart has wandered about, a shuddering itself has terrified me. The twilight for which I had an attachment has been made for me a trembling. ([Isaiah 21:4](#))
- And he proceeded to call out like a lion; Upon the watchtower, O Yehowah, I am standing constantly by day, and at my guardpost I am stationed all the **nights**. ([Isaiah 21:8](#))
- And here, now, there is coming a war chariot of men, with a span of steeds! And he began to speak up and say; She has fallen! Babylon has fallen, and all the graven images of her gods he has broken to the earth! ([Isaiah 21:9](#))
- And this is the writing that was inscribed, Mene, Mene, Tekel and

Parsin. (**Daniel 5:25**)

- This is the interpretation of the word; Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and has finished it. (**Daniel 5:26**)
- Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and have been found deficient. (**Daniel 5:27**)
- Peres, your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians. (**Daniel 5:28**)
- At that time Belshazzar commanded, and they clothed Daniel with purple, with a necklace of gold about his neck, and they heralded concerning him that he was to become the third ruler in the kingdom. (**Daniel 5:29**)
- In that very **night** Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed (**Daniel 5:30**)
- And Darius the Mede himself received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. (**Daniel 5:31**)
- If it were thieves that came in to you, if despoilers came in by **night**, to what extent would you have been silenced? Would they not steal as much as they wanted? Or if it were grape gatherers that came in to you, would they not let some gleanings remain? (**Obadiah 1:5**)
- It is in these different figurative senses that we must understand the texts at;
 - I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (**Revelation 21:2**)
 - And its gates will not be closed at all by day, for **night** will not exist there. (**Revelation 21:25**)
 - Also, **night** will be no more, and they have no need of lamplight nor do they have sunlight, because Yehowah God will shed light upon them, and they will rule as kings forever and ever. (**Revelation 22:5**)

- Where we are assured that in the **New Jerusalem**, **night** will be no more.