

## **“It really is darkest before the dawn...”**

### ***The Past:***

I had a grandmother that was scared of storms. Lightning and thunder would send her to a closet. Not me. I just pace the floor. Many, many years ago my wife and I moved into our new house. It was absolutely wonderful compared to apartments and a trailer that we had occupied for so long. Much room was available for both of us. We had a pair of sliding glass doors and I had decided to build a deck. Very bad idea. I had no construction skills, I still have no construction skills, and I will never have construction skills. But that did not stop me. I did have good advice and I built the deck. It served a purpose and it would never, and I mean never, fall in. The wood was rough cut and the frame was built on railroad ties that I personally cut and concrete in the ground. Up until the day I tore that out it was as steady as any deck I have ever stepped on. One day there was a storm. We listened to the news and we knew it was going to be bad. I paced more that afternoon than ever before. I walked from the interior of our house out onto the deck. The last time I walked on the deck the sky went from overcast to immediate darkness. My wife and I then went to the basement. It would turn into a tornado and that tornado would touch down less than a mile from my house. Fortunately, no one would be hurt. The house would go unscathed. When we saw that the darkness was over we proceeded from the basement up to our living quarters and I went to the deck. I truly learned that it was darkest before the dawn. The storm having past, the sky was a beautiful blue with a little white mixed in.

### ***The Present:***

Storms come and go and we have been blessed in our home for many years not to have any damage from storms or tornadoes that have occurred around us. With a considerable time lapse from the past to the present, a time lapse of forty years plus, I look upon the darkness in a different way. I go beyond my home in Southern Indiana and I begin to take in the world. I see beautiful skies and clouds. I see beautiful land and crops that grow on this land. I see beautiful bodies of water from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mediterranean Sea. I see nations entangled in war with other nations. I see groups of people organize themselves in such a way to bring death and destruction wherever they strike. I see innocent people suffer from the ravages of wars. I see the darkness that consumes humans throughout this world in their search for self serving interests. Yes, storms come and storms go but these current storms in the form of war, terrorism and the ever pervading human interest in satisfying ones own distorted lifestyles seem to only get worse. As this worsens nations and people become entangled and the darkness rolls in.... only to stay for longer and longer periods of time. Am I trying to be a doom and gloom person? No. I love the beautiful skies, spring flowers and I enjoy the beauty that the world has to offer. But, the darkness comes, the darkness from none other than the “ruler of the darkness of this world.”

“And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.” (Revelation 9:11)

***The Present and Our Future:***

All that it takes to overcome darkness and have a new dawn greet us is light. When light enters in there is no more darkness. The dawn has risen. Remember.....

**“I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** (John 8:12)

.....but we have responsibilities in order for that light to continue to shine.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

"Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that He has promised."  
(Hebrews 10:35-36 NLT)

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