## Is it Dusk Moving Toward Midnight or Dawn Moving Toward Noon Time? Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. Princeton University November 11, 2018

## **Proclamation Against Edom**

<sup>11</sup> The <sup>[d]</sup>burden against Dumah. He calls to me out of Seir,
"Watchman, what of the night?"
<sup>12</sup> The watchman said,
"The morning comes, and the night. If you will inquire, inquire; Return! Come back!" Isaiah 21:11-12

## There is a burden against Dumah. Duma means "silence of the night and of death. Seir is a central mountain range of Edom that is heavily forested area, that is inhabited by the Edomite people.

- The watchman is on the wall
- People are confused because its night and they have no lights, except for the stars and you couldn't see them if it is cloudy.
- They had no GPS, no technical direction.

• They found themselves stumbling and afraid and asking the watchman who was on the wall, ---what of the night?

# How long will it be dark? Will it be dark always?

## The watchman said,

"the morning comes, and the night will come again. We must be prepared to fight and survive, by day and by night.

# A fundamental question is whether it is the dusk moving towards midnight, or dawn moving towards noon?

There is a certain darkness in our nation today. Elections based upon who has the most money., the most deceptive ads, the real capacity to suppress votes without any conscious restraints.

# What time is it? ...

I. When POTUS says he is a nationalist presiding over a multicultural country and a global world we must ask the question:

# What time is it?

• White male supremacy has no export value in the world today.

• When elections in Georgia are determined by the referee and the score keeper who is the player presiding over the game

# What time is it?

- Can you imagine a football game, the review and the close call, the player accused of committing the foul judges the review?
- Race and racism are used interchangeably
  - $\circ$  Race is the division of peoples in the world.
    - There is no harm in people taking on their parents, their geography and topography, whether they are living in the extremes of the equator or on the equator itself.
    - There is no sin in that.
  - Racism is the idea that one people is superior to another. That is to say:
    - The first and the most of all things valuable.
    - The other is the least and the last.

Such a nation challenges the ontological make up of all mankind. God cannot be pleased with racism. That is policy at every level: educational, political, economic and criminal justice systems. When the President arbitrarily threatens a counter investigation if he is investigated--- such abuse of power contributes to the darkness.

- Affordable healthcare spitefully named obamacare to turn sick people away from it. (They want an omelet without the eggs)
- The President puts babies in cages on the border as a tactic of deterrence to keep their families from fleeing terrorists.
- There is a danger in the powerful abusing border babies. Moses was such a baby. Through the genius of his mother, Moses was spared, and rose up to lead a nation. Jesus was a border baby. He was taken to Egypt as an immigrant, became a refugee, and grew to become a millennial whose values redirected the course of the world.

- What time is it when voter suppression becomes art work and a sport violating rights Hispanics and Native Americans.
- What time is it when manipulated against each other?

#### **II.** How does one navigate in the darkness?

- To some people it means sleep or to hide
- $\circ$  To others it means to surrender
- $\circ$  To others it means work while the enemy is asleep.
- There was a ship captain and crew when to the harbor to drink and have a party. Robert Smalls, a slave, took the confederate ship by night and steered it to freedom in the dark.

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But I submit to you—stars are seen more clearly in the dark

Rosa Parks defied a bus arrangement in the darkness of the South. She unleashed an avalanche of cries for justice that were heard around the world. I submit to you that the stars seen more clearly in the dark. Dr. DuBois in post slavery in the height of lynching earned a PhD from Harvard. He studied in the dark.

- Mandela emerged after 27 years from the darkness of a tomb on Robbins Island freeing a nation, with more moral authority than Popes and Presidents.
- During this dark season, the refugees from Central America, Beto in Texas, Gilliam in Florida, Abrahams in Georgia are the lights of hope.
- In the darkness you can dream of lights, not just personal but world changing dreams. This is no time for ethnocentric nationalism.
- The world is too small
- you can study in the dark
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- you can plan in the dark, but as sure as it is dark the morning cometh
- the light emerged in Texas—Beto Florida—Gillum, Abrams—Georgia

# III. In the darkness --- you must imagine globally—not just personally or nationally

- the world is too small dwarfed by speed distance in time. One can fly to Senegal and the other to Los Angeles, both would arrive about the same time.
- there are no more foreigners in the world in light of social media. Everyone is everyone's neighbor in the world house.
- in the world house climate change is scientific predictions based on man's violation of the atmosphere, not superstition
- in the world house there are not winnable nuclear wars
- therefore, using nuclear threats as a bargaining chip is absurb.
- in this world there is too much violence Parkland to Pittsburgh, Sandy Hook to 1000 Oaks,

## IV. Its dark but the morning comes—

• People of faith know that darkness is not permanent. Its dark, but the morning comes.

- When its dark we sow by night and reap by day
- People of faith declare the lord is our light and our salvation whom shall we fear
- perfect love cast out fear
- People of faith believe that weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

They never give up on the formula for healing as found in 2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways. I will hear their prayer and heal their land.

That eternal flame must never be extinguished