



# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

*I welcome you to this new month and present to you October 2022 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Creation". The Bible clearly revealed that a pre-existing, self-sufficient eternal God who is infinitely good and have absolute power, and authority; holy, just and true created the world and all that is in it.*

*In view of controversies that trailed creation account in Genesis and similar spectacular events, to get the best from our reading of the Bible, we must early understand that the aim of Biblical writers such as Moses who wrote the Book of Genesis was not to give chronological account and genealogical details but to establish spiritual facts and relationship. Specifically Genesis 1 was to give an intelligent account of God's relationship with the world He created and the man He placed in it.*

*Careful contextual reading of the Bible and cross-referencing as appropriate confirmed that God created the Heavens and the Earth within a 24hours' six days period. The argument against this came because man wanted to rationalize miraculous acts and explain God's work with logical reasoning and common sense. It is a case of men trying to help God find more time to do what His word stated that He did instantaneously. Such and similar arguments about divine operations are unnecessary once we accept the fact that God can do anything; and do all things.*

*What delights the heart most as we read Genesis account of creation is that at some point, the creation account became the story of a people, a family, a community, nation and eventually a world of filled with people. Men are the beneficiaries of all else that God created. All that God made, He made for man. However, He made man for Himself, to love Him, serve Him, live for Him, and live with Him. Sin make us lose all that. Jesus came to restore to us all that we have lost; he came to restore us to purposefulness and usefulness in God's plan to reclaim the earth from sin's damage and establish everlasting kingdom where redeemed men can live and reign with Him forever.*

*It is my sincere prayer as you read this creation account and edition of Watchman's Trumpet, that God will bless you and help you to find, enter into and enjoy abiding relationship with God through Christ; and fit into His present and future plan for your life and for His creation in Jesus name. Welcome!*

## THE BEGINNING

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters"*  
**Genesis 1:1-2**

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 comprising of three astronauts Bill Anders, Jill Lovell and



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Frank Borman the first humans to travel to the Moon, as they orbited the planet and sighted the Lunar sunrise, they read from Genesis 1. Anders read verses 1-4, Lovell verse 5-8, and Borman read verses 9-10.

Undoubtedly, the reading of Genesis 1 by these astronauts was inspired by their sensing of the wonders of creation, the wonders of the universe, the wonders of life and wonders of our creator God. It was an acknowledgement of the existence of the God of creation and the awesomeness of His power and majesty. One in four people on earth, about one billion people in 64 countries listened to the broadcast. It was a clear testimony and witness in human conscience that the earth has a beginning and a creator. Any sincere person who meditatively observed the uniqueness, peculiarity and diversity of creation and life on earth will by his observation come to the same conclusion.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Revelation of God
2. The earth without form
3. The move of the Spirit

## 1. Revelation of God

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”* **Genesis 1:1.**

*“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created”* (AMP) **Revelation 4:11**

The opening phrase *“In the beginning God...”* in Genesis 1 presents to us the primordial germ from which springs all that there is in the world, all that is written in the entire Bible, all that we are and represents as human beings, our purpose, mission and destination as well as the destination of all things. We have through it a declarative statement that a pre-existing, eternal, independent God and source of infinite goodness, absolute power and dominion, origin of all abilities, most pure, holy, true and self-sufficient created the world and all that we now see, feel and hold with our hands. Everything was made from nothing. The universe emerged from nothing into something because God was involved. This remains an eternal truth and edifying message to all humanity. We are by it taught to begin all things with God if we want the best outcome. We must always put God first.

The word used for God in the original text is *“Elohim”*. It is a plural word used in sentence with a singular verb. This introduces us to the concept of Trinity taught in the church today. This is important because from the beginning of our life to the end, God will continuously relate with us in this three forms and personalities. God was not only the creator of the world, He remains at the centre of its affairs. He rules and governs the earth. He makes and dethrones kings. Empires in which He is not recognized rests on unstable foundation. What God is to the universe, He is to every individual and life on earth.

## 2. The earth without form

*“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”* **Genesis 1:2**

God created the earth in phases and stages. The description of the earth in Genesis 1:2 as being *“without form and empty”* refers to the earth’s first phase of creation. We have expressed in it a picture of confusion and disorder, a collection of indescribable concoction of nameless material and matter in solid, liquid and gaseous states strangely mixed together and forming a chaotic mess, mesh and mass. Many other planets in our solar system like Mars, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter remain in this state until today. God spent six days sorting it out. This detail is inserted by divine inspiration upon Moses the writer to teach crucial spiritual lesson. It presents a testimonial of great, good and glorious things that God and His Spirit can do through His spoken words in chaotic lives. God’s creativity continues today in every repentant sinner that comes to Christ for salvation. He creates in such a new spirit and nature Psalm 51:10.



## 3. The move of the Holy Spirit

*“.. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”* **Genesis 1:2**

*“Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth”* **Psalm 104:30.**

The orderliness that God brought earlier began with the move of the Holy Spirit. into the chaotic mess and mass described earlier began with the move of the Holy Spirit.

The word “moved” described a loving, hovering, fluttering movement over the mass. Resonant throughout the scriptures especially in the New Testament are stories of great things that happens whenever God’s Spirit moves.



Holy Spirit’s presence and move is always marked by power demonstration. Seven things happen when the Holy Spirit moves. These include salvation for the lost, John 16:8, healing for the sick Acts 10:38, Demon-possessed are set free Mathew 12:28, Jesus is glorified John 16:4, holiness is increased Hebrews 10:15-16, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested 1 Corinthians 12:11, evangelism becomes a priority Acts 1:8. God made the world by His Spirit Psalm 33:6, Job 26:13. Dead things will remain forever dead without the quickening of the Holy Spirit. Such quickening is the source of believer’s new birth and life Ephesians 2:1, Titus 3:5. In today’s chaotic world, more of Holy Spirit’s move, power and presence is what we need.





## ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

## WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



### Prayer Points - For October 2022

1. Thank God for the uniqueness, peculiarity and diversity of life on earth
2. Pray for daily life of gratitude for God’s creation and its privileges
3. Pray for grace for accountable and responsible use of resources that God placed under our care
4. Pray for grace to daily exhibit godly character of goodness, love, mercy, justice and compassion
5. Pray that the light of Christ will shine more and more in our lives, pray for conversion and illumination of those still living in darkness
6. Pray for grace to daily live lives that conforms with His perfect will and purpose
7. Pray for increasing revelation and greater intimacy in our relationship with God
8. Pray for greater move of the Holy Spirit in our world and time, ending all chaotic situations.

“..... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

**May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!**

**Watchman Prayer Hour** holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

**For more info on the Mission, log on to:**  
[www.watchmanoutreachmission.org](http://www.watchmanoutreachmission.org)

## SHINING THE LIGHT

*“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day”* **Genesis 1:3-5.**

The Bible defined light as whatever make things to manifest or appear Ephesians 5:13. The shapeless, watery unorganized mass from which our present earth was created was covered in darkness before God commanded that light should appear and shine upon it. We can therefore infer from this that darkness reigns if light is absent. This is an important spiritual lesson.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Let there be light
2. Separating darkness from light
3. Peculiarity and destiny of children of light

### 1. Let there be light

*“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”* **Genesis 1:3.**

*“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith”* **Mark 11:23.**

The world was made by the word of God Hebrews 1:3. He commanded and it stood fast Psalm 33:9. The instantaneous appearance of light in a dark, void, and empty earth when God commanded it greatly heightens our impression about the immeasurable power of the God of the Bible, the God of the Hebrews and the God whom we serve. Applying this lesson opens our eyes and lives to great possibilities and potentials of real-time intimate relationship with God. God creates by speaking. We must pay close attention to the word of God and to

the things we say about ourselves, about other people, and to other people either negative or positive because we are created in God’s image. The Bible mandated believers to speak gracious words Colossians 4:6. Spoken words are powerful. A man may ensnare himself and place himself under yoke and bondage by His words without knowing it. We are to bless always with our tongue. God’s spoken word by Him or by His representatives (in Christ’ name) is still powerful today Mark 11:23

Let light shine was God’s first directly spoken word in the Bible. Immediately He said this, there was light. Darkness lose ground and gave way for all that was beneath it to manifest. Many promising life’s prospect, great plans, career and destiny lies buries in darkness. Such will benefit from God’s spoken authoritative voice.

Furthermore, we have in this revelation the strong connection between the move of the Spirit of God and the power of God’s word. God’s word is the sword of the Spirit. The preached word and Holy Spirit power’s synergy in creating new life in convicted sinner is well established in the scriptures. Not only that, the continuous influence of this synergistic relationship is the secret of consistent Christian living. If you are still struggling with sin, one would want to find out how much attention you have given to God’s word and the influence of the Holy Spirit in your Christian life and journey.



### 2. Separating darkness from light

*“And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness”* **Genesis 1:4.**

*“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”* **Ephesians 5:11.**

Darkness and light exists in the world today, though God compartmentalizes each. God separated light from darkness. He called the light Day and the darkness Night. In God’s order and

programme, light should be separate from darkness and night from day. There is a spiritual lesson in this. In the scriptures, light is figurative of evil and the regions in which Satan and his agents rule and reigns. We are not to have fellowship with them Ephesians 5:11. Ignorance, wickedness, rebellion and sins in general are all works of darkness; we should keep away from them. God is light and believers are described as children of light and of the day Ephesians 5:8.

### 3. Peculiarity and destiny of the children of light

*“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* **Mathew 5:14, 16**

Jesus commanded that through addiction to goods works we children of the Kingdom should shine like light in the world Mathew 5:16. We should carry a clear, unique, distinguishable identity wherever we go. People who look at us should not have any doubt as regards where we belong and where our allegiance lies; darkness or light, day or night.

Light and darkness co-exist in the present world, but we should be reminded that a time of permanent separation is coming. There is and there will be eternal light in Heaven for those who arrive there to enjoy and eternal darkness for those whose works, choices or negligence banished to Hell. God set up the day for men to work and night to rest. Our lifetime is daytime, the choices we make today will ultimately determine our fate when the night’s curtains of eternity falls. Christ is the light of the world, He is the daystar from on high; allegiance to Him will keep our hearts and life illuminated in this dark world.



## PREPARING THE EARTH FOR HABITATION

*“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good” Genesis 1:6, 9-10*

*“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else” Isaiah 45:18.*

Everything God created was to serve a purpose. Spirituality and intimate relationship with God gives our life a meaning and connects us with God’s plan and purpose for our life. God created the earth to be inhabited. A major change that will make this happen began on the second day of creation week

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Creating the right atmosphere
2. Emergence of dry land
3. The blessings of the sea

### 1. Creating the right atmosphere

*“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so” Genesis 1:6-7.*

On the second day of creation week, God commanded that a firmament should appear in the midst of watery mass that later became the earth and Heaven. Firmament is the expanse we see as the sky when we look up, beginning with the atmosphere. Earth’s atmosphere blocks the Sun’s



dangerous rays from reaching the earth. It traps and prevents heat and total evaporation of all surface water on earth. This moisture-laden enclosure wrapped around the earth like a blanket of water vapor. It separates the water on earth from water in the atmospheric cloud as commanded by God, such that the plants that existed in antediluvian world needed no rain. The spaces that houses this moisture and cosmos bodies beyond it God called Heaven. Genesis 2:4 revealed clearly that this space - Heaven or sky was created in multiple segments and layers that we refer to as Universe today. Earth’s atmosphere with its unique distance and position from the sun makes it conducive for life among all the planets in our universe. Its right chemistry and the endowment of the earth beneath it with water and carbon in adequate proportion makes it capable of supporting life and living.

### 2. Emergence of dry land and plant life

*“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so” Genesis 1 9-10.*

On the 3rd day, God commanded that the waters under heaven should gather into one place and dry land should appear and it was so. The dry land He called “*Earth*” and the water pool He called “*Seas*”. Next, God commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation, plant-yielding seed and fruit bearing trees, each according to its kind and it happened. It was the first appearance of life form on earth.

God clothed the earth with green vegetation’s beauty. God gives grasses its beauty, a beauty much valuable that all the clothes in Solomon’s wardrobe. He delights in beautifying His children’s life. Plant are sources of all food. Years before we came, God saw us coming and provided for us. The world is a table of nourishment set before man. It also purifies the air we breathe. We need to use it gratefully and responsibly. Plants require specific condition to grow and thrive, so is everyone who receives the seed of new life from God. In nature, we find some of God’s greatest sermons and Christ’s parables.



### 3. The blessing of the sea

*“And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth” Genesis 1:21-22.*

The sea that God created serves many purposes. It nourishes, supports commerce, serves as a means of defense, provides channel for transport, moderates earth’s temperatures, supports seasonal variations, its power runs steam engines for electricity, and it is a store of incredible and inexhaustible wealth.

There is sea in every converted man, rivers of living water, springing forth to make us resourceful, productive and fruitful in the world, and providing much needed companionship in our journey to spend eternal days in Heaven as heirs of everlasting life. This is the Holy Spirit. Our continuous submission to His influence and guidance produces and matures in us the fruit of the Spirit.

## BEGINNING OF LIFE ON EARTH

On the fourth day, God created luminaries - the sun, moon, and stars and gave them their commission and what purpose they are to serve. There is fruitfulness, fulfillment and permanence when we are where God wanted us to be and are doing what God wanted us to do

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Heaven's light bearers
2. Animal life created after their kind
3. Man created in God's image

### 1. Heaven's light bearers

*"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also"* **Genesis 1:16.**

*"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"* **John 8:12.**

God on the fourth day called into existence heavenly bodies - the sun, moon and stars. The greatness of their numbers, varieties, magnitude and splendor are simply amazing. As God's candles, they were to give light and regulate time, seasons, days and years. They remind us of our stewardship of time. We are also reminded that everything has its time and season in the world; nothing is permanent. Our time is a loan. We should use it as faithful stewards.

Jesus is the Sun of righteousness Malachi 4:2. As the natural sun is the centre of the systems of creation, so is Christ. He is our source of light, life, truth, righteousness, happiness and immortality. Natural sun unlike the moon is self-evident and self-sustaining. We can say the same thing about Jesus. He is all-sufficient. Furthermore, as the moon receives its light from the sun and reflect it on earth, so is every believer expected to reflect Christ's graces and gifts, and by them continue His ministry of earth.

Ministers are likened to stars Revelation 1:16 and apostates are described as wandering stars. Jesus is the Bright and Morning Star Revelation 2:16. The unrelenting dedication of these luminaries to their God-ordained task of providing accurate measures for seasons, days and years teach us the need for diligence and steadfastness especially in our commitment to God and dedication to His Service. They remind us of the immutability of His counsel and His faithfulness to His promises. God is a sun and shield; giver of grace and glory Psalm 84:11

### 2. Animal life created after their kind

*"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good"* **Genesis 1:24-25.**

After creating the luminaries, God created animals in water, land and air. Order, diversity, varieties and balance characterized this aspect of His work. They were brought forth after their kind. Even though there are different kinds of dogs, dogs cannot and has never given birth to monkeys or cats, confounding the lies of evolutionists. God created water and air creatures to populate these spaces with life, activity and vitality. They form part of man's food chain, beautifies the earth's water and sky, thereby showing forth God's glory.



**"For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else"**

**Isaiah 45:18**

God blessed them. His goodwill and released blessing make life of all kinds multiply on earth and ensures fruitfulness. We must delight in blessing people by our words and in our actions if indeed we are children of God. By creating these creatures, God planned for man's arrival and sustenance. Planning and preparation including orderliness must be an integral part of our daily lives and activities.

### 3. Man created in God's image

*"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* **Genesis 1:26, 27.**

*"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good..."* **Genesis 1:31**

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"* **James 1:17.**

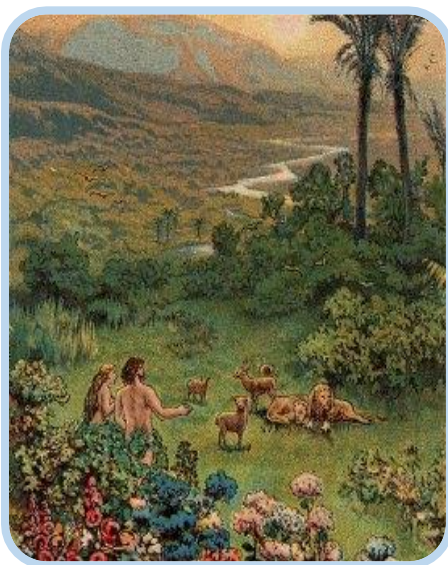
At last, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, God created man. The special place He planned for man to occupy in His programme was clearly demonstrated by more detailed attention that He gave to this creature. Even though the three persons in the Godhead, the Father, Son and The Holy Spirit has been active in creation work since the beginning, the creation of man began with a special notice, invite and summon.

God said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ..."* Genesis 1:26. He never said this concerning anything else that He created. He created them as male and female, and blessed them. They were to be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it. They were to exercise dominion over everything else that He created. Man was to be God's regent and viceroy on earth. His position in order of creation was a

noble one demanding great responsibility and accountability.

Uniquely God made us with His hands Genesis 2:7, not His words like other creatures. He made man and woman, male and female. Like God, humans have personality with moral, spiritual and peculiar intellectual qualities. Only man is able to reflect God's nature and character of goodness, love, mercy, justice and compassion. Only man has conscience and ability to worship and interact with God.

The first man created was also holy, he lost this attribute through sin but it was restored today through relationship with Christ indeed *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well"* **Psalm 139:14.**



At different intervals, God examined what He created and affirmed their perfection and flawlessness. We should make evaluation and appraisal an important part of our daily activities and life. God created a good, beautiful, perfect and orderly world. Until date, He remains the giver of all good and perfect gifts.

Today's unnecessary emphasis and stress on equality of men and women did more harm than good.

The epidemic confusion which resulted not only undermines the significance and peculiarity of our maleness and femaleness, it breeds more divorce, more homosexuality, sexual abuse, promiscuity, social awkwardness, emotional distress and suicide to the point that a child born in today's world does not clearly understand what it means to be a man or to be a woman. God's way will always be the best. Drifting from it comes with grave consequences. This is the greatest lesson for modern man from the entire book of Genesis.



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**Martin Luther** was born on 10 November 1483 in the German town of Eisleben. In those days Germany was not a single country but a federation of states called the Holy Roman Empire. His father was Hans Luther, a copper smelter. His mother was called Magretta. Hans Luther wanted his son to become a lawyer. Martin went to the University of Erfurt in 1501 and he received an MA in 1505.

The same year he was caught in a thunderstorm. Luther was shaken by the experience and he decided to become a monk despite his father's wishes. Martin Luther became an Augustinian monk in Erfurt. He was ordained a priest in 1507 and in 1512, he became a doctor of theology.

Meanwhile in 1510 Luther went on a trip to Rome. He was shocked by the lack of piety he found there. Luther also had a strong sense of his own sinfulness. He studied the Bible diligently and he came to disagree with some of the teachings of the Catholic Church. Luther believed that salvation is obtained by faith only. Good works cannot earn it.

Then in October 1517, Martin Luther wrote 95 theses. He objected to the sale of indulgences - a document written by the Church releasing individuals from punishment for their sins. Indulgences could be bought by the living on behalf of the dead who were believed to be in purgatory. Copies of the 95 theses written by Luther were distributed across Germany and then across Europe.

In 1519 and 1520, Martin Luther wrote several other essays/books such as *The Address to the Christian, Nobility of the German Nation, The Freedom of a Christian, and The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. He denied there were seven sacraments as taught by the Catholic Church. Luther said there were only two, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Luther also believed in the priesthood of all believers.

Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Catholic Church in January 1521. However, he was undaunted. Then in April 1521, he was called to appear before a secular assembly called the Diet of Worms. He refused to change his views saying: *'Unless I am convicted by scripture and reason - I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted*

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**MARTIN LUTHER**  
1483 - 1546



*each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God'.*

In May 1521, the Diet declared Luther an outlaw and a heretic and banned his writings. However, powerful friends protected Martin Luther. He also gained many followers and he hid in Wartburg Castle where he continued to write. Luther returned to Wittenberg Castle Church, in Eisenach, in May 1522 to organize the Lutheran Church. The Church received considerable support from German princes.

In 1525, Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora. She, along with some fellow nuns, escaped from their convent with Luther's help in 1523 in response to his reform movement. The couple had 6 children. In 1525, Luther published his great work, *The Bondage of the Will*. Afterward, He continued to write. He translated the Bible into German published in 1534. He also wrote hymns.

Luther died following a stroke on February 18, 1546, at the age of 62 during a trip to his hometown of Eisleben. He was buried in All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, the city he had helped turn into an intellectual center. Luther's teachings and translations radically changed Christian theology. Thanks in large part to the Gutenberg press. His influence continued to grow after his death, as his message spread across Europe and around the world.

### SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

*"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."*

**Psalms 139:14**

## SONG OF THE MONTH

### HOW GREAT THOU ART

1. Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:*

*How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:*

*How great thou art! How great thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.
4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then \*I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

**Author:** Carl Boberg

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Watchman Outreach Mission**  
**78/80 Nepa (IBEDC)**  
**Building,**  
**Opposite U.I Second Gate**  
**Ibadan, Oyo - State, Nigeria**

### BANK DETAILS FOR DONATION

**Bank:** FBN PLC  
**Acct Name:** Watchman Outreach Mission  
**Account No.** C/A 2016363366  
**GSM No.** +234-9026840215,  
8033846714  
8056671595