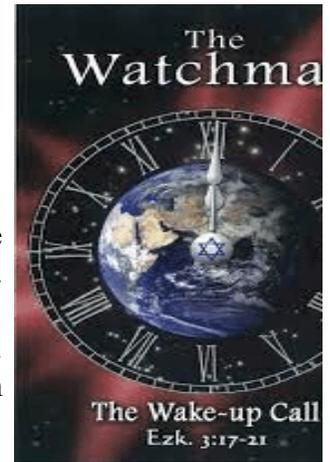


THE WATCHMAN'S DUTY

Let us begin in the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 3 verses 16-17 (Here we will read of an important appointment God made for Ezekiel to follow) (reading out of the King James Version): “And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me.

These verses set in motion an important part of God's plan for His called-out elect. Ezekiel was commissioned to be a watchman over the people of Israel, and was given specific instructions by God on what needed to be done at that time.



God had specific purpose and different instances throughout the Holy Scriptures of important people throughout His Word that would need to carry an important responsibility. We have also been given a huge responsibility on the part of God, and how we also must look out for one another, fellowship with one another, and be with one another, for so God commanded us to do in His Word. The same can be said with what we will be discussing today. There are inherent responsibilities that God gives us throughout His Word, both in the Old and New Testament, as to how important it is for each and every one of us to pay attention to what is happening around the world, and to watch for the signs to come. Just because it is the time in between the Fall and Spring Holy Days, it does not mean the world stops for us, I think we all know that clear from what is going on with the news and nations around the world. This is obviously Satan's world, and we are to be watchful, more than ever, of all that is going on around us, having our heads on a swivel. There will be a time when we are going to experience the signs God's Word tells us, and our responsibility is to watch for the signs, know the signs, and maintain our utmost faith in God and our Messiah, Jesus the Christ. The duty of a watchman is not only to literally observe what is happening around an area, but as we will see throughout this article, there are instances in which we must also act, and our own faith is tested. It is important to understand the role of the watchman because it is what God has set us out to do, it is part of God's calling, and we must acknowledge and put into practice what was done, just like it was in the time of the prophets. This concept of being a watchman is especially important during the time in between the Holy Days because of everything going on around us, we are to fulfill our duty as God's watchmen.

Now, the very definition of watchman is plain and clear. According to Webster's Dictionary, the word watchman simply means: a person who keeps watch, guard Other words associated with watchman that I'm sure we have all heard are the following: guardian, keeper, lookout, sentry, watcher.

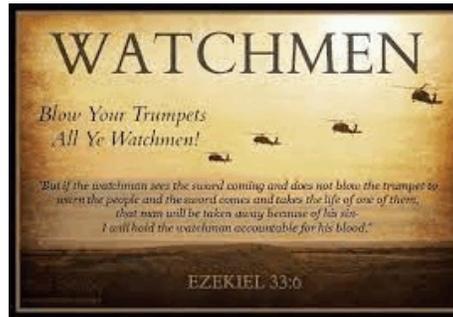
The word watchman has also two different meanings from the Strong's Concordance:

1. Strong's 6822 from the Hebrew word tsaphah meaning to look out or about, spy, keep watch ')
2. Strong's 4649 from the Greek word skopos meaning a watchman, a mark (on which to fix the eye).

We are going to be looking at two different elements. First, we will look at how God used the concept of being a watchman from the Old Testament point of view, meaning the use of the prophets to fulfill specific purposes for the people of Israel in their time from God's calling. Specifically, we will look at Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. Second, the New Testament offers a new element of being a watchman because of the message our Messiah, Jesus the Christ had for all of us to do, especially during these difficult and trying times. Being a watchman for God means we are to be watching what is happening around us, and how events unfold around the

world with relation to Scripture. God is very clear in His Word of what is expected from us because just like the prophets were instructed in their time to what needed to be done, the same God expects from us.

Let us continue in the Book of Ezekiel, and read chapter 33:1-9 (Here we will read of the duty of the watchman that God had planned for Ezekiel) “Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto sword upon a land, if the people of the land and set him for their watchman: If when he the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh come, and take him away, his blood shall be heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not upon him. But he that taketh warning shall watchman see the sword come, and blow not be not warned; if the sword come, and take them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me. 8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”



God's words to Ezekiel outline the important components of being a watchman, and relate the importance of the duties that are required from God's called. We read of God speaking to Ezekiel, and appointing him with a call for a nation to have an appointed watchman, for when the time comes. We also read of the watchman needing to blow the trumpet, and warn the people for what is to come, as well as serve as a warning to those who choose not to heed the word of warning. The person who heeds the warning, will save his life. However, there are consequences for not blowing the trumpet, which is a symbol from God to the people as a warning to know what is coming. Therefore, God appoints a watchman to Israel, to make sure that warning is given, the wicked needing to be warned of their horrible ways. Even if the wicked is warned of his evil ways, and does not turn from it, their life might be lost, but the soul saved.

This is the duty God wanted Ezekiel to have, and the same can be said with us today. God appoints us as watchmen, to be on the lookout for all that is transpiring around the world, and we use the platform with what we do in the Church of God, In Truth as a way of communicating with all who seek to find the truth through God's Word. We have the telephone hookup, the internet services, the Prove All Things Magazine, which is sent every 3 months on a quarterly basis, and there is the Weekly Newsletter with articles filled with information regarding what is happening around the United States, and the world. Our duty is to continue the work God has given us to do.

Looking now at the example of watchman duties and responsibilities God put on Isaiah: 6 For thus hath the LORD said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth. (Is. 21 :6) And dropping down to verses 8-12: “And he cried, A lion: My Lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights: And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground. O my threshing, and the com of my floor: that which I have heard of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you. The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.” God appoints Isaiah as a watchman to warn the people of Edom of impending judgment, if they

do not repent. The watchman giving news of the prophecy against Dumah.

Continuing in the Book of Isaiah 52:8-10 (Here we will read about a New Testament prophecy): “Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted His people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

The prophecy of the New Testament is given, the watchman will fulfill the role of getting the voice out for the Millennium to come; they will reveal the plan of the Lord, and salvation will be brought to the land. Isaiah was given this prophecy by God to reveal to us, and therefore implementing the good news of what is to come. Our role as watchman is not only to be based on the bad news only, especially when it comes to what is happening around the world today, it is to also deliver the positive news of what God has in store for salvation, through Jesus the Christ.



Turning just a few pages over to Isaiah 62:6-7: “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Dropping down to verses 11- 12: “Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. And they shall call them,

The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. God has given us the inherent responsibility, as watchmen, to proclaim the Word of God, for what is to come for Jerusalem. Verse 6 presents an important component that we must always take into consideration, and that is in the second part, where it says: which shall never hold their peace day nor night. The phrase hold their peace means to keep silent. In essence, another way this verse can be read in vs. 6, I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never keep silent day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence. We are to do the work of the watchman, and proclaim the Word of God, and never keeping silent because we have to remember, God uses us to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

The Book of Habakkuk informs us how our watch is to be: “I will stand at my watch and station myself on the watchtower; and I will keep watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am reprov'd. And the LORD answered me: Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it delays, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look, his soul is lifted up; it is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith. (Hab. 2: 1-4). We are given specific instructions on how to do our watch, and know that we have to live by our own faith, that is the base of the watchman. We must continue onward, and continue the watch and responsibility God has instilled in us, through our own faith in His plan for our lives.

Let us read of God's use of Jeremiah as a watchman: “Thus says the LORD Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, "We will not walk in it. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Listen to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, "We will not listen." Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth. I will bring calamity on this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not listened to My words, nor to My law, but rejected it. (Jer. 6:16-19). Very strong words from God to the people of Israel during Jeremiah's time. The people would not heed to the warnings and words from God, even as God instituted the watchman, in this case Jeremiah, over them. Our role as watchman is to carry on the instructions and commandments of

God, and to deliver the message to all who need to hear. Therefore we have an internet service, a telephone hookup, a newsletter, and a magazine. The Word of God is going out throughout various means of communication, and we pray all who listen and read pay heed to what is happening around the world, and all that is written in God's Word because it is very clear that we are to watch throughout the world.

Let us continue in Jeremiah 31:6-10: "For there will be a day when the watchmen on the hills of Ephraim will proclaim, "Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God." For thus says the LORD: Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; publish, praise, and say, "O LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel." 8 See, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the remote parts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her who is in labor with child, together; a great company will return here. 9 They will come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble. For I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn. 10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far off, and say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and keep him, as a shepherd does his flock." The restoration of Israel is given, and the watchmen are set to deliver the news of what God has done for Israel." Watchmen are leaders by trait because God has put that specific skillset in them because of the initiative to deliver the news God has offered for all of us to know. Just like Jeremiah was there as a watchman to what God had purposed him to do, so too is the same for us today.



We see now how God truly sees us by what we do in the Book of Proverbs 8:32-35: "Now therefore hearken unto Me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep My ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors." For whoso findeth Me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD." God sees us by what we do, how we watch, and in doing so properly, we obtain favor in the eyes of God. We hear and read God's Word, and if we are watching as He commanded us, we will find life, and obtain favor from God the

Father, how truly a remarkable truth to know and apply in our lives!

Let's look at the second element, and that is how our Messiah, Jesus the Christ presents the instructions of being a watchman, especially during these turbulent and troubling times we live in. Also, we will look at a few examples from the Apostle Paul that will help us in encouraging our role as watchman. Christ mentions in all the four Gospels, several times over the word watch. The role of the watchman in the New Testament adds the element to watch for the end time events that will happen across the globe, and to watch for the signs to come. Our Messiah knew the importance of being a watchman, in fact, He was the watchman during His time on this physical Earth because He brought about the plan for the salvation of mankind. Christ taught His disciples and followers, as we will see throughout the next several Scriptures, how important it is for all of us to watch, or in other words, to pay attention to what is to come, especially during the end time events that are soon coming upon the world. We cannot let our guard down, quite the contrary, we need to be watching for what is to come, and following God and Christ's instructions to us.

Reading the Book of Matthew 25:13:13, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Christ's own words are the very instructions we need to keep. We have to be watching, paying attention at all times for His second coming to this earth. We are to make sure we are watching all that happens. Continuing in the Book of Matthew 24:42 (reading on the subject of continuing to do the job God and Christ have set out for us to do): "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ is clear, we have to continue to watch because we do not know the hour when He comes, only God the Father knows. Our role as watchman continues and ensures we are in prepared and ready

for His arrival. Reading of another time Christ mentions to watch the end time signs in the Book of Luke 21:34-36: “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Our role, to continue to watch, before the signs of the end times needs to be something on our minds continuously because the same principles of the watchman are what we need to be paying attention to, for this very and exact reason because everything that Christ mentions that will come to pass, we will have to look out for. Our responsibility is to be in the best possible spiritual shape to overcome all the world will throw in our direction.

Reading Christ's instruction for us who are on watch in the Book of Mark 13:35-37: “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning;” Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” A watchman cannot properly do its job if he or she is sleeping, whether in continuous physical and spiritual sleep, we have to be spiritually awake and prepared. Christ mentions the word watch several times to emphasize the importance of this concept, we have to all be paying attention.

Let us read what the Apostle Paul has to say regarding the role of watchman in the Book of Acts 20:31-32: “Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Paul never ceased to stop the duty to watch over, and deliver the message to the brethren. We have to continue to watch, whether in our best moments in life, and even in our darkest and saddest moments in life. Regardless of how our emotions are, we have to continue to watch, God is watching us at all times, and so is Christ. It will be difficult at times, there is no doubt about that, we will experience difficult and trying times, but we are not alone in this process, ever. Reading the Book of 1 Corinthians 16: 13: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” Paul's words exhort us to continue to watch, remembering our faith, to continue to be strong and brave. God knows our hearts and minds, and He understands the calling He has given us, and He will not abandon His people.

The duty of a watchman is an incredible calling God called out and chosen few. It is truly an honor instructions and commandments are clear, we are remain watchful for all that happens around the around us. From the prophets in the Old Testament Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel, just like their calling a watchman in their times, so is ours today. We are vigilant, especially during the times we are living Messiah, Jesus the Christ was clear to His disciples and followers, encouraging them to always watch for the signs to come, to be watchful, and to not be spiritually asleep. The calling for us, to be watchman, is truly a blessing, and one we must always keep in our hearts and minds forever. Let us conclude in the Book of Psalms and read of David's encouraging words for us to know and follow regarding how God protects His people when He is always watching us: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep” (Ps. 121: 1-4). 📖



has given His because God's always to world, and such as was unique as to remain today. Our

Carlos Martinez