

Watchman, What of the Night? Part 2

I. Characteristics of the Watchman

A. He Was Vigilant in His Watching (verses 7-8)

Isaiah 21:7 tells us that the watchman not only looks, but sees. After carefully taking note of all he observes, he gives his report. He does not leave his post, but remains there to ensure that nothing happens during the day that escapes his notice.

In 1 Peter 5:8, we are told to *Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone whom he may devour.*

The word “sober” means “to be calm and collected in spirit,” and the word “vigilant” means “to be watchful”.

The Lord’s watchmen are not to be swept away in the excitement of the times. We are not to be disturbed by the events around us, but to be ever alert. The world is changing around us today at an alarming rate, for the worse. We are not to be disturbed by the things we see however, that we might soberly and effectively warn to our generation.

B. He Was Vigorous in His Warning

When this watchman saw trouble approaching, he did not keep the message to himself. Instead, he opened his mouth and shouted a warning as loudly as he could. He sounded the alarm with all his might, that everyone in earshot would hear.

C. We Need Watchmen Today Who Are Vigilant and Vigorous

As we see the enemy approaching ever near the wall of our churches, our homes, our families and our communities, we have a responsibility to sound the warning. This truth is illustrated well in our Lord’s words in Ezekiel 33.

II. The Watchman and His Message (verses 11-12)

These words are a prophecy declared against the people of Edom. They are pictured as one who approaches the wall at night, crying out to the watchman, "What of the night?"

The watchman has a three-fold answer. It is the same three-fold answer the watchmen of our day need to have ready for those we are to warn.

A. He Speaks of Coming Dawn

The watchman cries, "The morning comes!"

-The night was the most frightening time for the inhabitants of the city. During the daytime, the enemy would be exposed far more easily. The news that dawn was coming brought comfort to the hearts of the people.

We should look forward to the promise of eternal life and the coming of our Savior. John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Ps. 30:5.

B. He Speaks of Doom

The watchman informs the people that after the morning is past, night time will return! For the children of God, there is a bright, happy morning on the horizon; but for the lost sinner, lies the danger of an eternally dark night of separation from God in hell. John 3:36; Heb. 10:3.

C. He Speaks of Decisions

The watchman exhorts those who hear him to inquire, listen, and return. He is calling the wayward ones back to God, warning them.

Will you be a faithful watchman?

Let us diligently warn those who have rejected God, that their souls might be delivered from sin and death—that is our responsibility and duty!