

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY 135

WATCHMEN

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem. They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who made mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

Isaiah 62:6-7 NKJV

WATCH: the act of keeping awake to guard, protect, pray, etc., and the act of being alert and continuously attentive

CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL WATCHMEN

1. **Generally they are prophetic.** *Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants, the prophets. Amos 3:7 Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Revelation 19:10b*
2. **They operate in spiritual discernment.** *He answered and said unto them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and overcast.’ O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the time.”*
3. **They understand the times.** *And the children of Issachar who were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...1st Chronicles 12:32*

Jesus told us to “watch.” What does He want us to watch for? (*And what I say unto you, I say unto all, “Watch.” Mark 13:37*)

1. **For the coming of the Lord:** *Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...Therefore, be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matthew 24:42 and 44 Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man cometh. Matthew 25:13 Remember, therefore, how thou hast received and heard and hold fast and repent. If, therefore, thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Revelation 3:3*
2. **That we enter not into temptation:** *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41*

3. **For the Day of the Lord:** *Even so, when you see these things taking place, understand and know that the kingdom of God is at hand. Truly, I tell you this generation (that is, those living at that definite period of time), will not perish and pass away until all has taken place. The sky and the earth (that is, the universe, the world) will pass away; but My words will not pass away. But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed-weighted down-with giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to (the business of) this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose; for it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. Keep awake then and watch at all times (that is, be discreet, attentive and ready); praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of man. Luke 21:31-36 AMP*

THE DAY OF THE LORD: The Day of the Lord is a period of time at the end of the age when the cup of iniquity on the earth becomes full and evil becomes rampant and the Lord releases judgments on the earth. It is a time of fearful trouble that is described in scripture as birth pangs signifying the fall of the old order and the ushering in of the new. Although God's people, particularly His remnant company who is passionately sold out to the Lord, will suffer from the evil of men around them, they will be kept by the Lord from His wrath. The Day of the Lord is a day of destruction from the Lord, a day of anger and trouble and distress, a day of gloom and darkness and depression for the proud and haughty heathens rebelling against God. This will be a time of sifting and reaping. It is a time characterized by violent wars, catastrophic weather, and earthly calamities, such as plagues, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, and drought. It will be a time when Great Babylon, which is symbolic of the World System, will be exposed and eventually fall. The Bride will make herself ready in this time and in the end will come out of her closet ready to meet the Bridegroom at the Second Coming of Jesus. Before the Second Coming, the true believers in the Church will walk in unity and repentance and in the fullness of the latter rain. Scripture tells us that many will be asleep, unprepared, entangled by the things of the World. This is when the enemy, knowing that his time is short, will try to steal, kill and destroy in a ferocious way. We must wake-up from our spiritual slumber and be ready. Many believe we have already entered the very beginnings of this day, and I believe that too. [see Isaiah 2:12, 13:6 & 9; Amos 5:18-20; 1st Thessalonians 5:2; 2nd Peter 3:10; 1st

Corinthians 5:5; 2nd Peter 3:8; Jeremiah 46:10; also the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 & 25]

THE FORMER AND THE LATTER RAIN: Just so you will not be fearful or discouraged about that day, remember that we will also see the former and the latter rain in that day. The former rain was the rain that came at planting time. The latter rain was the rain that came at harvest time. James tell us, *“Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the farmer waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and the latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth near.* (James 5:7-8) Rain generally represents revival, refreshing, the outpouring of the Spirit and the Word. Apparently, rain did not fall on the earth until the time of Noah. The former rain and the latter rain are reference to the onset and termination of the rainy season and are important prophetic symbols of the Last Days. The Jews believe that rain is a source of blessing that comes from God Himself, from the heavens. The Baal worshipers associated Baal with springs, wells, and streams, but only Yahweh was the rain giver (Jeremiah 14:22). Elijah proved this to the people in 1st Kings 18:17-40. Rain is the first of blessings promised to Jacob’s land in Genesis 27:28 and to Israel in Deuteronomy 28:12. The descent of rain is likened to the blessings of the kingdom in Psalm 72:6-7. In contrast, the presence of clouds and wind without rain is likened to a man who “boasts of a gift he does not give” (Proverbs 25:14) which is fake and phony “appearance” religion, having a form of godliness but denying the power (2nd Timothy 3:5). The former rain usually begins in mid or late October but sometimes may not come until January. These rains are the seed planting rains and cause a fall in temperature and a brilliance in the sky. In Palestine, plowing is done after the early rains have softened the earth. (The plowman in scripture represents the evangelist.) Once these rains come the industrious farmer will start his plowing. “The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold.” (Proverbs 20:4) (How many refuse to evangelize because of the inconvenience or being out of their comfort zones?) The latter or spring rain or harvest rain beings between April and early May. Latter rain showers are the last showers of the rainy season. The wheat harvest takes place in May so these rains are associated with harvest. By the middle of August the fruit is gathered and from that time until the former rains, the weather is usually scorching hot and dry, much like a Georgia Indian Summer. Nothing can more expressively represent spiritual blessings than many showers after this trying time of heat and drought. Zechariah in Zechariah 10:1 tells us to ask

for rain in the time of the Latter Rain. This indicates a special outpouring of the Spirit that will manifest itself in the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit in operation to a degree that we have never seen. This is coming, I believe, in our day.

The Ministry of Paul as Outlined in 2nd Corinthians 6:4-5 AMP: *But we commend ourselves in every way as [true] servants of God: through great endurance, in tribulation and suffering, in hardships and privations, in sore straits and calamities, in beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless WATCHING, hunger....*

THE FOURTH WATCH (from *Watch of the Lord* by Mahesh and Bonnie Chavda)

The Glory of the God seems to increase in our midst as we continue to watch and pray. During the fourth watch(between 3 AM and 6 AM), it is multiplied and the miracles begin. It was during the fourth watch of the night that Jesus walked on the water out to His disciples who were in a boat on the lake, striving against the storm(Mark 6:48). During a military campaign, the hours of the fourth watch are the most strategic hours of the night, the most difficult time frame wherein to guard against the enemy's attack and the time the enemy is most likely to attack. Medical personnel have another term for it-the dead of night-the time span when more deaths occur than any other segment of our twenty-four hour day. Biblically speaking, it's the time when the enemy of our souls is busiest, when soldiers watch most earnestly and when we must watch for God's instructions as we stand our posts on the wall of prayer....The enemy of our souls is busiest at night, while most of us are sleeping. It is the night-the darkness-that has previously been Satan's prized possession. Through the Watch of the Lord, we are taking back the night and claiming it on behalf of its Creator, the Lord Most High." Mahesh Chavda

The only major Biblical figure (that I know of)who was SPECIFICALLY called by God a Watchman was Ezekiel, who was both a prophet and a priest. According to the excellent book *All the Men of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer, Ezekiel began his ministry at age 30 when he was given, not only a call, but also an impartation of the prophetic gift. Like Jeremiah, he proclaimed the downfall of Judah and Jerusalem. While doing so, he denounced false prophets, preached repentance and spoke against Babylonian pride and Jewish degeneracy. Tradition says that Ezekiel was

put to death by his fellow exiles because of his faithfulness in denouncing them for their idolatry.

I believe that Ezekiel is a type of last day's prophet. These prophets have been set as WATCHMEN on the Wall as they watch and pray for the Coming of the King.

Lockyer tells us:

1. **He was an exile:** *Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, as I was among the captives by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. Ezekiel 1:1*

So are we: *These all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13*

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

2. **He was an ambassador:** *And He said to me, Son of man, go get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.*

So are we: *For which I am an ambassador in bonds; that in this, I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:20*

3. **He was a watchman:** *Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel... Ezekiel 3:17a*

So are we: *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you.*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES WHO WATCHED AND PRAYED

1. Jacob wrestling with the angel. Genesis 32:24-28
2. The Israelites and the Passover in Egypt. Exodus 12:42
3. The Harlot Rahab. Joshua 2 and 6
4. The Prophet Samuel. 1st Samuel 3 and 1st Samuel 15

5. King David at the birth of his first born with Bathsheba. 2nd Samuel 12
6. King Solomon. 2nd Chronicles 1:7
7. Daniel and King Darius when Daniel was in the Lion's Den. Daniel 6:18
8. Jesus(Keeping watch all night in prayer was one of the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry.) Luke 6:12-13
9. The Widow Anna. Luke 2:37
- 10.The Disciples at the Day of Pentecost. Acts 1:14 and Acts 2:1
- 11.Peter freed from prison by the angel. Acts 12
- 12.Paul and Silas freed from prison chains. Acts 16

Sinner Saved by Grace

Gloria Gaither

*If you could see what I once was, if you could go with me
Back to where I started from, then I know you could see
The miracle of love that took me in its sweet embrace
And made me what I am today: an old sinner saved by grace!*

*How could I boast of anything I've ever seen and done?
How could I dare to claim as mine the vict'ries God has won?
Where would I be had God not brought me gently to this place?
I'm here to say, "I'm nothing but an old sinner saved by grace!"*

CHORUS

*I'm just a sinner saved by grace
When I stood condemned to death, He took my place!
Now I grow and breathe in freedom with each breath of life I take-
Loved and forgiven, back with the living,
I'm just a sinner saved by grace!*