

“WATCHMEN ON THE WALL”

Lesson 4 ☐ For week ending January 24, 2015

One of the greatest responsibilities of the church today is to be aware of what is happening in the world and how it relates to Bible prophecy. It is the watchmen's responsibility to make others aware of what is coming. The watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem must be ever vigilant to watch for not only enemy attacks, but also the signs of the coming of the Lord.

KEY TEXT: “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” (Isaiah 62:6-7).

1. The call to be a watchman is a calling from God. He is the One who places them on the walls. They are to keep watch on the walls of Jerusalem. Discuss Jerusalem as a type of the church, the Bride of Christ, as you read Hebrews 12:22,23 and Revelations 21:2,9,10.

• **Hebrews 12:22,23**

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.”

• **Revelations 21:2,9,10**

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

2. The responsibility of the watchmen is prophetic in nature. They are in a position to see things before every one else so that they can sound the alarm of warning. Consider this aspect of the watchmen's calling as your discuss Amos 3:6,7, Jeremiah 35:15 and John 16:13.

• **Amos 3:6,7**

6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it?

7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

• **Jeremiah 35:15**

15 I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.’ But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.

• **John 16:13**

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

3. Oftentimes it would also be the responsibility of the watchmen to call out the hours of the night as they looked forward to the approaching dawn (Isaiah 21:11,12). This required the watchmen to stay awake while everyone else had gone to sleep. The time just before the coming of the Lord is described as a very dark time. It is a night in which many will fall asleep spiritually. God's watchmen, however, will be wide awake (I Thessalonians 5:1-9; Matthew 25:5,6)!

• **Isaiah 21:11,12**

11 The burden against Dumah. He calls to me out of Seir, "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?"

12 The watchman said, "The morning comes, and also the night. If you will inquire, inquire; Return! Come back!"

• **I Thessalonians 5:1-9**

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

• **Matthew 25:5,6**

5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

4. If the watchmen did not do their job, they would be at fault for the destruction of those that they did not warn. Confirm this from Ezekiel 3:17-21. Discuss the importance of ministry today that instructs and warns people, both the righteous and the unrighteous, of the Lord's judgment (II Timothy 4:1-4; Acts 20:28-31).

• **Ezekiel 3:17-21**

17 Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:

18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

20 "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.

• **II Timothy 4:1-4**

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

- 2 *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*
- 3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*
- 4 *and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

• **Acts 20:28-31**

- 28 *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*
- 29 *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.*
- 30 *Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*
- 31 *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*