



# **WATCHMAN**

## 1. **Definition**

- People appointed to watch out for the body of Christ

## 2. **Examples of watchmen in the Old Testament**

- Jeremiah was God's watchman in Judah. - Jer 6:17
- Daniel was God's watchman in the king of Babylon's palace - Dan 9:4
- Ezekiel was God's watchman among the people by the river Chebar. - Ez 3:17

## 3. **Watchman in the Old Testament Ez 33:1-6**

- To prevent the city from being over run, walls are built up around the city
- There are gates, but as long as there is sufficient warning, these can be closed and defended.
- The one way that the enemy has a chance of conquering this city is to take it by surprise.
- To get through those gates before anyone realizes it, and while they are undefended.
- To ensure that they have plenty of warning in the event of an enemy attack, a man with a very important job is posted on the city walls.
- There stands the watchman, high on the walls scanning the countryside searching for any sign of movement.
- No matter what the weather, no matter how tired he is, he must stick to his task.
- If there is going to be an attack, he must see it. If there is an attack he must blow the trumpet and blow it loud and long, to warn the people, to wake them up, to put everybody on the alert. That is his task – watching and warning!

## 4. **Lessons learnt from the watchman**

- Watchmen simply report what they see and hear. Watchmen report the approach of an enemy or the approach of the king.
- They report to the authorities who sit in the gates.
- They are usually stationed at every gate and along the walls at various points. However, they can be stationed other places as well.
- They are under command.

- Though a watchman is usually a soldier, they do not attack without specific orders. Their primary function is to report what they see and hear.
- Their post is often in a watchtower, an elevated structure specially fortified for that purpose. The position is one of a defense. Though siege weapons could be mounted and operated from the tower platform.
- There is no place in the Bible that indicates a watchman went out and attacked an army. They simply reported what they saw and heard and obeyed the commands of those in authority. The king or commanding officer might send out an army to attack, but the watchman did not give such an order. (Note: the prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 3 was referred to as a watchman and in Jeremiah the prophet in Jeremiah 1:10 was to root out, pull down, destroy and throw down, build and plant. Hence, it is possible for those with a prophetic gifting functioning as watchmen to at some point function as the prophet did in Jeremiah)
- The watchmen were usually soldiers and often carried weapons. It was permissible to use these in extreme cases such as self defense.
- There was often a captain of the guard or watch whom the watchmen reported to and who prepared reports for the leaders. (Nehemiah 7:2 - Hanani was leader of the citadel or captain of the guard)

## 5. Watchman in the New Testament

- Any minister functions as a watchman as they watch and pray over their assigned area - 1 Cor 9:16
- Evangelists watching over their outreach ministry
- Elders watching over people assigned to them - Heb 13:17
- Deacons watching over their assigned responsibilities
- Sunday school teachers watching over those in their class
- The worship leader watching over the worship team
- Youth minister watching over the youth ministry
- Prophets
- People who are prophetic (Have the gifts of discerning and prophecy - love to pray and worship)
- People who are called to ministry and are being trained
- Each member also carries a responsibility - Mat. 28:18-20; Gal. 6:1-2

## 6. Summary

**God still wants the body protected from false teachers and false prophets. Watch and Report**