**Awaken All You Watchmen**

**Scripture:**[Luke 21:36](https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/scripture/sermons-on-luke-21-36?keyword=Luke+21%3A36), [Ezekiel 3:17-21](https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/scripture/sermons-on-ezekiel-3-17-21?keyword=Ezekiel+3%3A17-21)

For the last few Sundays Pastor Leo has been teaching what real worship is. How you praise the Lord through how you live. Opening your heart through song to worship and praise the lord. If you are a “Worshiper” you are also a “Watchman”. This last week several of us went to the reginal MFI conference titled “**Devine Acceleration**”. Here are a few highlights to think about. When you accept Christ as your savior He does things *for you*. As you mature in Christianity He does things *through you*. Slow down and go deep into God’s word just like when you train your body. Acceleration will come with practice and knowledge. God will give you divine acceleration. You cannot do anything for others if your vessel is empty. Keep in God’s word, worship and praise Him, and become a “**Watchman**”.

I titled this sermon “***AWAKEN All YOU WATCHMEN***.  **Luke 21:36,** *Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.*  In other words, stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Lord. As Christians we stand watch over each other. The Church has the best knowledge through the Word of God. Yet as Jesus says only those who have an ear, can hear what the Spirit is saying.

The attack by Hamas on Israel was a prophetic picture of the state of the World Church right now. Israel is constantly aware that they could be attacked by various groups at any time. Yet although they knew this was coming, they never picked it up. With the most sophisticated intelligence and surveillance monitoring equipment known. This should wake us all up to be more aware of the world and the attacks that may come.

The Church has the best intelligence in the world, through the Word of God. Yet as Jesus says only those who have an ear, can hear what the Spirit is saying. That is the Church today carrying on with life with no thought of the Last Days, taking the signs all around us without any seriousness, concentrating on ourselves instead of God. It reminds me of Noah and the Ark. Noah preached righteousness, he warned a great flood was coming, people heard it and never responded until it was too late. As a watchman it is your duty to recognize danger and to warn others. Where are the Watchmen on the Wall? Are you sleeping? Wake up, sound the alarm in your congregations, this is Life OR Death.

What Is the Biblical Context of the Watchman on the Wall?  **Ezekiel 3:17**, *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.* This is found within the larger narrative of the prophet Ezekiel's call and commission to deliver God's messages to the people of Israel.

This imagery of the watchman serves as a powerful and symbolic representation of Ezekiel's role as a spiritual guardian and messenger, with significant lessons for both the prophet and the broader audience. In **Ezekiel 3:17-21**, *“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.”*

God appointed Ezekiel as a watchman over the house of Israel, charging him with the responsibility to warn the people of their sinful ways and the impending consequences if they do not repent. The watchman metaphor draws upon the ancient practice of placing sentinels on the walls of cities to sound alarms and alert inhabitants of approaching danger. Similarly, Ezekiel is tasked with sounding the spiritual alarm, calling the people to turn from their wickedness and return to God.

Ezekiel began his prophetic ministry at the beginning of the tragic Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem. Due to the sins of the people of Judah and Jerusalem, God had given the people over to a foreign king and nation, Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. Ezekiel is both a priest and prophet and speaks primarily to the captives in Babylon. Ezekiel’s name means “God strengthens” or “strengthened by God.”

In chapter 3 of Ezekial, God declares Ezekiel as a watchman over the house of Israel. God continues to explain what the call entails, primarily speaking the words God gives him to say. If Ezekiel doesn’t give the message of God, then the blood of further judgment on the wicked will be on the prophet’s hands. However, once Ezekiel gives the message, then the hearers are responsible for their own decision and response. Ezekiel gives many warnings of destruction and messages of hope concerning God’s coming restoration, including one of the famous declarations of the coming New Covenant (**Ezekiel 36:26***,I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh).*

Therefore, from this passage, the main role of a watchman is to give the prophetic Word of God to the people God sends Ezekiel to. At the same time, the idea of a watchman has several different levels from ancient history.

What Was the Ancient Role of a Watchman on the Wall?

In ancient times, the role of a watchman on the wall held great significance and was vital for the safety and security of cities and settlements. The ancient role of a watchman on the wall encompassed several key responsibilities that contributed to the overall protection and well-being of the community. The primary duty of a watchman was to function as an early warning system. Positioned at an elevated point, the watchman had a clear view of the surrounding landscape, including roads, approaching armies, and potential dangers.

By maintaining constant vigilance, the watchman could promptly identify and report any signs of impending trouble. In the event of a threat, the watchman would sound alarms or signals to alert the city's inhabitants. This could involve blowing a trumpet, sounding a horn, or using other audible signals to warn the people of an imminent attack, allowing them to take defensive measures or seek refuge.

The watchman also played a crucial role in facilitating communication and coordination within the city. They would relay information about the nature and location of the threat to military commanders, leaders, and other relevant personnel, enabling them to make informed decisions and strategize a response. One of the watchman's key objectives was to prevent surprise attacks. By maintaining a constant watch, they could detect enemy movements at a distance, giving the city's defenders valuable time to prepare and organize their defenses.

Beyond security concerns, watchmen also monitored trade and commerce activities. They would observe caravans, traders, and travelers approaching the city, ensuring that legitimate business transactions could take place while also keeping an eye out for any suspicious or potentially harmful activities. Watchmen were not only concerned with military threats but also with natural disasters. They would be attuned to signs of approaching storms, fires, floods, or other calamities, allowing the city's inhabitants to take precautions or evacuate if necessary.

The presence of watchmen on the walls served as a symbol of the city's authority and preparedness. It conveyed the message that the city was vigilant and ready to defend itself against any potential aggression. The role of a watchman on the wall was physically demanding and required constant attention, especially during times of heightened tension or conflict. Watchmen were chosen for their sharp eyesight, keen observation skills, and ability to remain alert for extended periods. Their dedication to their duty often required long shifts and a deep sense of responsibility for the safety and welfare of the community they served.

What Bible Verses Mention a Watchman on the Wall?

Besides **Ezekiel 3:17** (and also **Ezekiel 33:7**, *“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.*), several Bible verses mention the concept of a watchman on the wall, utilizing this imagery to convey important spiritual and moral lessons. The role of a watchman serves as a metaphor for vigilance, responsibility, and spiritual alertness.

**Isaiah 62:6***, I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;
They shall never hold their peace, day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent,* In this verse, the watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem are tasked with diligently proclaiming and reminding the people of the Lord's presence and promises. It emphasizes the responsibility of spiritual leaders to remain vocal and unwavering in their commitment to God.

**Habakkuk 2:1,** *I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. Habakkuk speaks of positioning himself as a watchman to receive guidance and insights from God. It underscores the posture of waiting, listening, and seeking divine direction.*

**Solomon 5:7**, *The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls took my veil away from me.* While not a direct reference to a watchman on a wall, this verse metaphorically uses the imagery of watchmen to portray a search for a loved one. The watchmen symbolize those who diligently seek and guard the beloved.

**Jeremiah 6:17**, *Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’* This verse illustrates the role of watchmen as messengers sounding the alarm. It reflects the people's choice to ignore the warnings, emphasizing the consequences of disobedience.

**Matthew 24:42**, *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.* While not directly about watchmen on walls, this verse is spoken by Jesus and conveys the importance of spiritual watchfulness and readiness for His return. It aligns with the concept of watchmen remaining vigilant and prepared.

**Mark 13:34***,**It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.* In this parable, Jesus uses the imagery of a watchman at the door to emphasize the need for his followers to remain watchful and faithful in carrying out their responsibilities.

What Can Christians today learn from being a “Watchman on the Wall”? Being a watchman on the wall, as depicted in various Bible verses, holds valuable lessons for Christians today.

**1.** Vigilance and alertness. Just as a watchman on the wall is vigilant and alert to potential threats, we are called to remain spiritually vigilant and watchful. The world is filled with various influences, temptations, and challenges that can divert our focus from God. Being a watchman reminds us to stay awake and attentive, guarding our hearts and minds against anything that could compromise our faith.

**2.** Responsibility for others. A watchman has a responsibility to warn and protect others. Likewise, Christians have a responsibility to care for and nurture fellow believers. This includes encouraging one another, offering support, and sharing the truth of God's Word. Being a watchman teaches us to look out for the spiritual well-being of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**3.** Proclamation of truth. Watchmen announce impending danger, and Christians are called to proclaim the truth of the gospel, including the imminent return of Jesus.

**4.** Discernment and discipleship. A watchman must discern between genuine threats and false alarms. Similarly, Christians need discernment to distinguish between sound doctrine and deceptive teachings. By cultivating discernment, we can navigate the complexities of the spiritual landscape and make wise choices in the pursuit of truth and growth.

**5.** Prayer and intercession. A watchman’s role involves prayerful observation. Christians can learn the importance of intercessory prayer, lifting up concerns, needs, and people to God. Just as a watchman works for the safety of the city, we must intercede on behalf of our communities, nations, and the world, seeking God's guidance, protection, and mercy.

**6.** Preparedness for Christ’s return. The watchman's readiness for potential threats mirrors the Christian's readiness for the return of Christ. Just as a watchman remains prepared at all times, we are called to live in anticipation of Christ’s Second Coming. This means cultivating a deep relationship with God, faithfully serving, and being ready to meet Him at any moment.

**7**. Servant leadership. The watchman’s role requires selflessness and service to the community. Christians can apply this principle to their lives by embracing servant leadership, putting others' needs before their own, serving with humility, and demonstrating Christ's love through their actions.

In a rapidly changing and often tumultuous world, the concept of being a watchman on the wall offers Christians a timeless blueprint or guide for living out their faith.

It reminds believers to remain vigilant, watchful, and dedicated to their spiritual journey. Let us all, men, and women, take up the charge for courageous intercession with our Father in Heaven. Become a “Watchman for Christ.