

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. Isa. 21:6-12

1. It is 689 BC and the world is in chaos. The Babylonian Empire is under attack by the Assyrians.
2. Everyone in the world except Assyrians hoped that Babylon would prevail; they were more humane than bloodthirsty Assyria
3. But, Babylon fell, and no one was left to stop them
4. God's people were waiting for war and certain attack on Palestine; God commanded the prophet Isaiah to take the role of a watchman and tell the people what is coming in the future.

B. 2700 years later, the world needs us to be watchmen.

1. To look into the word of God and see what is coming
2. To report to the world what is ahead

C. Isaiah speaks of the burden of Dumah; it is not literal location on this world

1. "The name as it stands here is symbolical, and without any demonstrable topographical application. Dumah is deep, utter silence, and is therefore the land of the dead" (Keil and Delitsch).
2. It is used to represent Edom in the land of Idumea, a nation that was wondering how goes the war, and will it come to their doorstep
3. They were looking for deliverance from the night of the Assyrian threat. So they cry out to Isaiah, "Watchman, tell us of the night."
4. His response: "The morning comes, and also the night. If you will inquire, inquire; Return! Come back!"
5. However, the morning was coming for Israel and the night for Edom. If they wanted to be saved from the Assyrians, they would have to leave Edom and return to God.

I. THE WATCHMAN

A. He is God's messenger - Ez. 3:16-21

1. He must give the message, whether good or bad.

B. He must not:

1. Be a respecter of persons - Rom. 2:11; Acts 10:34
2. Purpose to please men, but seek to save them - Gal. 1:10
3. Compromise the message - 1Kings 22:14; Gal. 1:8-9; Acts 20:26-27

C. Now, we are the watchmen - 1Thes.5:4-5; Acts 26:18

1. Shout the message - Isa. 58:1; Hosea: 8:1
2. Will we do the work of the watchmen or stand idle as souls around us die in sin?

II. THE NIGHT

A. The night is dark and uncertain. We cannot see when it is dark; so, how can we know the way?

1. Prov. 4:19; John 12:35, 11:10

- B. The word of the watchman illuminates the way - Psalm 119:105; John 8:12
- C. The night is dangerous, because the enemy roams the night.
 - 1. Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:13; Isa. 56:10; Luke 6:29
- D. The world is in the dark night of sin
 - 1. Like Dumah, they have no hope unless they come to the light
 - 2. John 3:19; Eph. 2:12; 1Thes.5:7
 - 3. The lost are crying out, "What of the night?" What will we tell them?

III. THE MESSAGE

- A. The morning is coming. There was going to be a restoration for Israel.
- B. The morning is coming for the faithful and righteous
 - 1. 2Peter 1:19; Rev. 22:16
- C. But the night will continue for Edom and the unsaved - 2Peter 2:4, 17
- D. "Inquire and turn." Edom was exhorted to inquire concerning the Lord's message and repent.
 - 1. So also today, the lost are exhorted to heed the Lord's word and repent.
 - 2. 2Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30-31
 - 3. How will you react to the message of the watchman?