

# Are You Ready?

Like a Thief in the Night  
Feast of Trumpets

**Luke 12:35-48**

Ezekiel 33:1-11, 30-33

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



17 September 2023

## Pressing Forward into 2023

### A Watchman's Duties (Ezekiel 33:1-11, 30-33; Jer 6:16-17; Isaiah 58:1)

#### • TO WATCH

- ① He must first watch himself. (Acts 20:28)
  - ➔ He must be alert. (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Peter 4:7)
  - ➔ He must know his responsibility to God and his people.
  - ➔ He must look in two directions:
    - ★ Into the revealed word of God (doctrine).
    - ★ Into the world (practical application of doctrine).
- ② He must be awake while others sleep. (1 Thessalonians 5:6)
- ③ He must fix his attention while others are indifferent.
- ④ He must look far while others are content with home.
  - He must have learned from what God did in the past.
  - He must look at what is happening today. . . **And**
  - He must look at the future.

#### • TO WARN

- ➔ Once he sees the danger he must warn.
- ➔ He must warn each and every time. (Jeremiah 6:16-17; Isaiah 58:1; Hosea 8:1; Amos 3:6-8)
- ➔ His warning **must be clear and distinct**. (1 Corinthians 14:8)
- ➔ If he warns, he has done his job and is innocent. (Acts 20:26-31)
- ➔ If he does not warn, he is guilty. (Ezekiel 33:6)

#### • REASONS WHY A WATCHMAN WOULD NOT WARN

- ① He is asleep on the wall.
- ② He is in darkness himself and unable to see.
- ③ He is proud and believes that the threat is not dangerous.
- ④ He does not want to frighten the people.
- ⑤ He does not want to be called a fanatic.

## The People's Duties

- Heed the warning of the watchman. (Hebrews 13:17; 2:1)
- Warn others.

## Reactions to Watchmen's Warnings in the Past (Ezek 33:30-33;

Jeremiah 6:16-17)

- They heard but did not do. (v. 31)
- They talked about the watchman and not the message. (v. 30)
- They came to be entertained and not warned. (v. 32)
- They didn't want to hear about God's hatred of *their* sins. (Isa. 30:8-11)
- They did not believe that God will do what He said He would do. (Jer 5:12-13)
- They wanted their ears tickled. (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 2 Timothy 4:3-4)
- They wanted the prophet to approve their sins. (Micah 2:11)
- They wanted to hear *new* things. (Acts 17:21)
- They wanted to kill (words and stones) those that spoke against them. (Luke 20:19; 11:47, 49; Jeremiah 26:8; 18:8; 20:1-2; Matthew 23:34,37)
- They wanted the watchman to stop blowing the trumpet. (Isaiah 30:8-11)

## Eternal Purpose of God

### God's Calendar

- God's seven feasts - (Hebrew: *moed*) "appointed times".
- God's feast: God is the Host
- God sharing His joy with His guests - His special people.
  - ★ Christ is God's greatest joy: Matthew 3:17; 17:5.
  - ★ ALL feasts point to Christ. (Luke 24:6-7, 44; John 5:39)
- Where are we on God's calendar: "time of the Gentiles" - Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25. This time has an appointed end.
  - ★ THEREFORE, TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE . . . (Heb 3:7-8, 15)
- Feast of Trumpets
  - Marked by last New Moon on the Lunar Calendar
  - Comes after a long time of no feasts! Consider Matthew 25:5; 25:14-15.
  - End of "Harvest" (Luke 10:2; 21:24)
  - An ingathering of the Harvest (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
  - Beginning of great celebration (Psalm 16:11; 36:8)
- Warning: Jeremiah 8:20

### The Shadow: Lev 23:23-25; Num 29:1-6; Col 2:16-17; 1 Thess 4:13-15

- Holy Assembly. All males required! (Exodus 23:14-17; 34:22; Deut 16:16)
- No Work
- Blowing of Trumpets (Psalm 81:1-3; Numbers 10:1-10)
- A shadow has no power.
- A shadow is not the Substance. (Colossians 2:16-17)
- A picture is not the Real Thing.
- The Substance: Something BETTER - the return of Christ for His Church

**Promises of His Second Coming** (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:1-3, 23; James 5:7; Revelation 22:12; Matthew 24:42-44; 25:31-32; 2 Peter 3:4; Luke 21:25; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:13; Mark 8:38; 2 Thess 1:7-8; 1 Peter 5:4; Luke 19:13; Colossians 3:4; 1 Cor 1:7; 4:5; 1 John 2:28; 3:2)

**Who Is He Coming for? Is He Coming for You?** (Isaiah 25:9; Luke 12:35-48; Heb 9:28; Romans 8:23-25; Philip 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 12:35-43; 14:26-33; 2 Tim 4:8; 2 Peter 3:12-14)

**Those Who Are Ready - Are You Ready?** (Luke 12:35-37)

- 1 Peter 1:13-15 - Are you pursuing holiness? (Hebrews 12:14)
- Are you DRESSED? (2 Peter 3:1-14; Matthew 22:1-14; Isaiah 61:10)
- Parable of Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) - MEDITATE on similarities!!
- When you least expect it. (Luke 12:40) Are you expecting it tonight?
- **Like** a thief in the night (Mark 13:33-37; Revelation 3:3; 16:15; Matthew 24:43; 1 Thess 5:2-3; 2 Peter 3:10)
  - ① He comes into the darkest part of the night.
  - ② He comes quietly and unobserved by sleepers.
  - ③ He comes to snatch something.
  - ④ He comes for His "jewels". He comes for what is rightly HIS.
    - ★ Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46; Malachi 3:16-18; 1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14)
    - ★ (KJV) God's **peculiar** people! (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9)
      - ① belonging exclusively to one person (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 2:9)
      - ② distinctive/only one (Romans 12:4-5)
      - ③ different from the usual or normal (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:13-16)
      - ④ Legally: something exempt from the ordinary jurisdiction of whose territory it lies. (Hebrew 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11; John 17:14, 16; 15:18-19)
  - ⑤ He is not interested in things of no value - unprofitable. (Romans 3:12; Matthew 5:13; 25:30; Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3)
  - ⑥ He comes and goes before others are aware.
  - ⑦ He leaves the house greatly impoverished but Himself greatly enriched.

**Those Who Are Watching - Are You Watching** (Luke 12:37)

- Are you carefully watching? (Luke 12:37)
- Are you eagerly watching? (Hebrews 9:28)
- Are you watching and being sober?. (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

## Those Who Are Working - Are You Working?

- A faith without works will not save! (James 2:14-26)
- Those who hear and do not do are deceiving themselves. (James 1:22)
- Luke 12:43 - Christ is coming back for those who are BUSY doing His will.  
(Matthew 7:21; 1 John 2:17)
- Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14 - Are you zealous for good works?

## Those Who Love/Obey Him (Hebrews 5:9; John 14:15, 21, 23-24)

- He is NOT coming for those who do not love Him and His Word.
- Those who do not love Christ are ACCURSED. (1 Corinthians 16:22)
- He is not coming for those who make EXCUSES. (Luke 14:16-24)

## Those Who Are Groaning - Are You Groaning? (Romans 8:22-25)

- “groan” - PRESENT TENSE - something we are always doing.
- “groan” - “sigh, murmur, pray inaudibly”

## Those Who Must Give an Account

- (Matthew 25:14-30, 34-46; 2 Cor 5:8-10; Eccl 12:13-14; Romans 2:6-10; John 5:26-29; Jeremiah 17:10; Gal 6:7-8; Rev 2:23; 22:12; **Hebrews 4:13**)

## What Do Christians Do to Be Ready?

- Listening to and submitting to their “watchmen/overseers”. (Hebrews 13:17; James 1:22; Jeremiah 25:4)
- Watch and Pray **Always** (Luke 21:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 1 Peter 4:7)
  - Serious watching                      → Serious prayer
  - Groaning for the day
  - Watching for the REAL BETTER THING - PERSON!
- Zealous for Good Works (Titus 2:14)
  - Busy about the works that God foreordained for us to live in. (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
  - He is not coming for the complacent/lazy. (Zephaniah 1:12)
  - He is not coming for those who make excuses. (Luke 14:18)
  - A faith without works is not a faith that will save you.
    - ★ A working faith saves. (James 2:14-26)
- Watching with perseverance. (Romans 8:25; 2:7; Hebrews 3:14; 6:11-12; Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13)
  - ★ It is not EASY being a Christian.
  - ★ It takes DESIRE and DETERMINATION, DISCIPLINE, DILIGENCE, DELIGHT, and DOING God’s commandments/will.
- Pursue holiness (1 Peter 1:13-16; 3:14; Heb 12:14; Rev 3:18; 2 Cor 13:5)
  - ★ Examine ourselves, confess and repent of all sins to be found “without spot and blameless” when He comes.