

Watchman Part 28

Other Responsibilities for the Watchman

“41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:41 KJV) Joseph the son of Jacob, his story is well known; he was betrayed by his brothers, sold and sent to be slave to an Egyptian, conspired against by Potiphar wife and was sent to jail. But finally the Lord set him free and lifted him up on high to be the ruler over all Egypt, ***“42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; 43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:42-44 KJV)*** That what had happened to Joseph and the new position that he was placed in. **The watchman should see the new position that he is placed in.** Pharaoh said to Joseph in verse 41, ***“See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.”*** From that you as watchmen and watchwomen can learn further important things:-

1. See it is the Lord's doing: Any promotion or elevation in your life, it is the Lord's doing and God had moved in your behalf. God had moved in behalf of Joseph and He rewarded him for his faithfulness and perseverance. God is also moving in your behalf and he will be rewarding your persistent faithfulness. Joseph truly waited patiently upon the Lord till He came and delivered him out from the prison and lifted him up. **In the same way be like Joseph in attitude and wait upon God till He come and relief you from your suffering.**

2. See it is hard and diligent work is waiting for you to do: Joseph in his new position he was moving throughout Egypt and he collected lot of provision and stored them properly in the years of plenty. ***“46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. 47 And in the seven plentiful years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.” (Genesis 41:46-49 KJV)*** **In this new position that God had placed you and provided for you there is a good and crucial work awaiting for you to do.**

3. See it is not a new position to have fun: Joseph in his new position did not spoil himself with the pleasures of Egypt. **Do not be worldly and spoil yourself and abuse the resources that the Lord had placed in your hand.**

4. See to be fruitful in the new position that you are in: Joseph In the new position that the Lord had placed him in, he had a family and got two children, ***“45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of***

Egypt.” (Genesis 41:45 KJV) ***“50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. 52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” (Genesis 41:50-52 KJV)*** **While you are in the midst of the plenty that God had placed you, see to it that you will be a fruitful person and do good things that will last forever.**

5. See it is a serious matter the new position that you are placed in: Joseph was serious in his work and he collected diligently the fruit of the land over the seven years of plenty because he knew that the seven years of famine will be a severe one on him, on the people of Egypt and on the people all over the world. Therefore he needed to be responsible and use the seven years of plenty wisely so he can pass safely the seven years of famine. ***“53 And the seven years of plentyousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. 54 And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. 55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. 56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. 57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.” (Genesis 41:53-57 KJV)*** **Be serious and responsible in the position that you are placed in and understand that the plenty that you are in today is a test for you to prove that you are a good steward of the things of God.**

6. See, it is for the salvation of souls and lives that you are placed in this new position: ***“1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. 3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.” (Genesis 42:1-3 KJV)*** The famine that the Lord allowed affected the family of Jacob and forced them to move toward Egypt to find food. And finally Jacob's family moved to live in Egypt and they escaped the death effect of the famine and they got saved. Joseph said to his brothers, ***“5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” (Genesis 45:5-7)*** ***“20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. 21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.” (Genesis 50:20-21 KJV)*** **See things and think in the same manner as Joseph did and acted. Your new position and with all the blessings that God is adding to your life is in order to use you to save souls and to bring them into His Kingdom.**

“17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.” (Jeremiah 6:17 KJV) This verse is part of a long passage in which the Lord was pronouncing His judgment against His people.

“1 O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction. (The Lord was telling His people to flee from Jerusalem because he will be sending a disaster on them to destroy Jerusalem.) 2 I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman. 3 The shepherds with their flocks shall come unto her; they shall pitch their tents against her round about; they shall feed every one in his place. (God was sending foreign shepherds to cease the city. He was encouraging them to attack Jerusalem.) 4 Prepare ye war against her; arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe unto us! for the day goeth away, for the shadows of the evening are stretched out. 5 Arise, and let us go by night, and let us destroy her palaces. (God was directing them to cut its trees and build siege to punish Jerusalem and destroy it with its palaces.) 6 For thus hath the LORD of hosts said, Hew ye down trees, and cast a mount against Jerusalem: this is the city to be visited; she is wholly oppression in the midst of her. (God was doing that because the wickedness of the people of Jerusalem as we read here.) 7 As a fountain casteth out her waters, so she casteth out her wickedness: violence and spoil is heard in her; before me continually is grief and wounds. (They were so stubborn and failed to take warning.) 8 Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited. (Because of their stubbornness God wanted now that the enemy will take away whatever left for Israel.) 9 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel as a vine: turn back thine hand as a grapegatherer into the baskets. (God resolved to do that because no one was willing to listen as we read.) 10 To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. (Therefore God sent His full wrath on every one.) 11 Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days. (And their houses He handed over to their enemies to take and occupy.) 12 And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. (Why God wanted to do that because even the Lord’s servant were greedy and were looking for unjust gain.) 13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. (And they gave the people false assuring messages. And that is what is going on now in the churches, false teachers and false prophets, they compromise and condone sin, and they give the people false assuring messages, and ignite more the anger of God.) 14 They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. (The people were also not ashamed of their wrong conducts therefore they will receive the Lord’s punishment.) 15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. (Repeatedly they were warned and were asked to open their eyes and see the truth clearly and walk in the ways of God but they refused to listen. God repeatedly was admonishing them to go and walk into the good way but they refused to get admonished.) 16 Thus saith

*the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (Therefore the Lord appointed watchmen to warn the people of Jerusalem and to admonish them to repent but they refused to listen to the appointed watchmen.) 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.” (Jeremiah was one of the appointed watchmen over the city of Jerusalem and his ministry and commission from the Lord was to warn the people; in sounding the trumpet was to warn the people that if they will not repent God’s wrath will come on them. * Therefore you are appointed by God to warn the people and to convince them to repent. You have a great responsibility and you need to do it well. You are accountable before the Lord for the lives of the souls that you are assigned to warn. * Each watchman had given authority to do a great responsibility. The watchmen they receive authority from the Lord in order for them to face the people with their sins, expounding to them the coming judgment of God, to rebuke them, hoping that they will repent. In the book of Song of Solomon 3:3, “The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?” The girl who went outside looking for her man was caught by the watchmen who had the authority to question her and find out what for she was moving around. Also in Song of Solomon 5:7, “The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.” The watchmen here even they spank the girl who was roaming around looking for her man. They spanked her, wounded her to discipline her and purge away her naughtiness. They had even the authority to take away the veil to identify the person and who was she or he. * Therefore you had received authority from the Lord in order to do your responsibility effectively. You are called to combat sin and to restrain sinners. * You need to tell the people God’s Word and describe to them clearly His Word and the sins that they are doing and the wrath that God shall send on them because of such sins.) 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. (You must make them understand that their burnt offerings and sacrifices cannot cover their sins.) 20 To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me. (Let them know that they need to repent. Describe to them further details of God’s wrath. That God shall send them calamities and even war would be waged against them.) 21 Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay stumblingblocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish. 22 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth. 23 They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion. (Contextualize to them events from the realities and link it with the Word of God, and show them that they will not be able to escape the wrath of God from coming on them.) 24 We have heard the fame thereof: our hands wax feeble: anguish hath taken hold of us, and pain, as of a woman in travail. 25 Go not forth into the field, nor walk by the way; for the sword of the enemy and fear is on every side. 26 O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us. (For God had warned them but they did not respond.) 27 I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way. (Therefore*

warn the people and link the coming calamities of God with their sins and their refusal to repent which caused them to be rejected by God.) **28 They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: they are brass and iron; they are all corrupters. 29 The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder melteth in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away. 30 Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.**" (Jeremiah 6:1-30 KJV)

"11 The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? 12 The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come." (Isaiah 21:11-12 KJV)

Burden is a prophecy or a vision. The prophecy in **Isaiah 21:11-12** is concerning Dumah; it is very short and might be difficult to be understood. But what is Dumah and what is the meaning of it? The following are the possible explanations:

A. Dumah is a part of Arabia: They could be the inhabitants descended from Dumah the sixth son of Ishmael. **"13 And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam, 14 And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa, 15 Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:"** (Genesis 25:13-15 KJV)

B. Mount Seir is here mentioned, by Dumah, and understood as Idumea, the country of the Edomites: **"The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir,"** (Isaiah 21:11 KJV)

C. They are Israel's neighbor: Some of Israel's neighbors were certainly meant, and their distress is foretold, not only for warning to them to prepare them for it, but for warning to Israel not to depend upon them, or any of the nations around them, for relief in a time of danger, but upon God only. **You must see that all the nations around you they are in need to know God and that they are not there around you to depend on them. They are around you so that through you they may know there is a God who created them, and you are there as watchman to direct them and guide them toward God.**

In **Isaiah 21:11-12**, we have here a question put by whoever, Edomite, Ishmaelites or any of the nations around the watchman: someone or other called out of Seir, or Someone calls to me from Seir. **"He calleth to me out of Seir,"** (Isaiah 21:11 KJV) **Somebody is calling you who are a non believer and you are the watchman and should do the needful.** We can speak more about that person that he was a person who was more concerned for the public safety and welfare than the rest of his group or nation. The same in the vision that God showed to Paul about the man of Macedonia, who desired Paul to come over and help them **"9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."** (Acts. 16:9-10 KJV) So this man of Mount Seir,

in a vision, desired the prophet to inform and instruct them. He has concerned about the things that belong to the public peace of his people. A man out of Seir asked advice from God's prophet, the watchman, and is willing to be taught, when many of God's people heed nothing!

Here is the call of God upon your life! God wants you to discern and hear the voice not of God and the face not of Him but the people whom God is calling you to serve Him by sending such people to you. One man or one woman, and even one child can be God's call in your life to go forward and serve Him by reaching such people.

"He calleth to me out of Seir": The man who called from Seir, he called not too many people but he called on the watchman because he had a serious question and he wanted the answer: **"Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?"** The watchman is the proper person to answer his question. **The office of the watchman is to answer such enquiries and serious questions.** What was the question? **"What of the night?"** As if he was asking how he can handle the darkness that he was in. Or as if he was asking how long he will be in that darkness that he was or as if he was asking was there no hope or a way out of this darkness? **People around you are in the grip of Satan, and they need deliverance and your help to deliver them.**

*** As a watchman you need to be a person who care and who earnestly desire to give an answer and a proper respond to the people's needs. * God's prophets and ministers are appointed to be watchmen. They are as watchmen in the city in a time of peace, to see that all be safe, to knock at every door by personal enquiries, to direct those that are at a loss, and check those that are disorderly. * They are as watchmen in the camp in time of war, "7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." (Ezekiel 33:7 KJV) * They are to take notice of the motions of the enemy and to give notice of them, to make discoveries and then give warning; and for this they must deny themselves.**

As the watchman should be attentive to people needs, then those who are in trouble, and those who are in sin and darkness are to enquire of the watchmen, especially to ask again and again, **"Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?"** And the following is the watchman's answer to the people question: After a long sleep in sin and false security, is it not time to rise and high time to awake out of sleep? **"11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."** (Romans 13:11 KJV)

The watchman was neither asleep nor dumb; though it was a man of Mount Seir that called to him; he was ready to give him an answer: **"12 The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come."** (Isaiah 21:12 KJV) What he meant that to tell him that he will enjoy a day of comfort; morning with light, peace, and opportunity but afterwards comes a night of trouble and calamity. **"The morning cometh, and also the night:"** In the course of God's provision it is usual that morning and night are counterchanged and succeed each other. Is it night? Yet the morning comes. Is it day? Yet the night comes also. If there be a morning of youth and health, there will come a night of sickness and old age. But God usually gives a morning of opportunity before he sends a night of calamity, that His own people may be prepared for the storms. **The point that we learn from**

that description that when we receive new people coming to Christ, yes they will receive salvation, peace and joy; but that does not mean that they will not pass through hardship and trials and difficulties in their lives. As well as we need to prepare ourselves to live a life worthy of Christ calling. We need to do as Paul and Barnabas did, ***“22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22 KJV)***

“if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.”: As watchman you need to encourage those who are approaching you to seek and draw near toward God. Speak to them about repentance, to turn away from their sins, and have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

My Dear and Beloved: The watchman should see the new position that he is placed in. Open your mind and see the new things that the Lord had placed you in and had added unto you. Apply what you heard and learned about good stewardship from the message and bring glory unto the Lord.

The watchman had given authority to do a great responsibility As watchman and as watchwoman for God ahead of you are a great responsibility, and a hard work and a long journey of service with God. God had appointed you and ordained you to do that. He will back you up as you show your willingness to serve God and to achieve His purpose in your generation.

The watchman is able to see sinners coming back to the Lord. In the parable of the lost son we read, ***“20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20 KJV)*** Therefore as a watchman and watchwoman taking your post to serve the Lord, be like God the Father who is watching and waiting to see, meet and receive the lost souls coming back home. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that makes me think in a fruitful and effective way. Lord thank you for revealing to me a clear vision from your Word. Lord thank you for calling me to serve you and do the ministry that you entrusted to me.

Confess and renounce your sins. Confess your laziness, unfaithfulness, bad stewardship, lack of perseverance, and non willingness to do the hard works to obey God and do the ministry that he asked you to do. Confess your worldliness and wasting your time and resources on worldly things. Confess and renounce your fear of man and your non willingness to face the people with their sins, suffer persecution and warn them about the coming judgment of God. Confess your lack of compassion and your non concern to reach out the lost souls with the gospel of Jesus. Confess your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Christ. Lord forgive me, I confess and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to serve you and abide with the things that you ordained for me to achieve; to be a faithful, persevering and hard working watchman following the example of Joseph and the way he served you. Lord I am willing to be a watchman who is doing his responsibility well; facing the people with their sins and warning them about your coming judgment as Jeremiah did. Lord I commit myself to be a responsible watchman who is compassionate servant of yours waiting and watching to receive the lost souls welcoming them in your Kingdom. Lord give me the discernment to do that and grant me the strength, the perseverance and encourage me by seeing the fruit of my watching. Lord enable me, uphold me with your grace, protect me and provide for me to do this task. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen

Lord thank you for my brothers and sisters who committed their lives to do the works of your as we learned from your Word. Lord make them fruitful and effective in their calling and ministry. Lord reward them for their faithfulness. Lord set them good examples to others to follow you. Lord protect them and provide for them and help them to continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to do the works that you prepared in advance for us to do. Lord bring more workers to work with us to finish the works of yours. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and make new disciples. Lord enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and more workers to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.

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