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# Watch For The Vision, Part II (Who's In The Watchtower)

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## God's Vision Plan

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***Sermon: God's Vision Plan: Watch For The Vision, Part II (Who's In The Watchtower)***

***Lesson Text***

Habakkuk 2:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. <sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Ezekiel 3:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Isaiah 56:10–11 (AV)<sup>10</sup> His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. <sup>11</sup> Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds *that* cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

***Introduction***

Today we will be a continuation of last week's message "Watch For The Vision".

- Hindsight Vision – Learning from the Past (Watching the Thief)
- Present Sight Vision – Seeing what in front of us (Watching for Opportunity)
- Foresight Vision – Preparing for the Future (Watching for What Will Be)

Let's now explore who's doing the watching? What condition is the watchman in?

In biblical times, there were two components to protecting a city. First, you would build a wall around the city. Secondly, you would build a tower or watchtower; a place where a watchman would watch for the enemy. And his job was to warn the people of approaching danger.

For God's people, this was the role of the Prophet or Pastor: Ezekiel 3:17 <sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

The Watchtower represents the place of prayer, a place to seek God for Vision and direction.

Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB) <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.

When it comes to getting the Vision or Plan for your life, who do you have in the watchtower?

Isaiah 56:<sup>10</sup> His watchmen *are* ***blind***: they are all ignorant, they *are* all ***dumb*** dogs, they cannot bark; ***sleeping***, lying down, loving to slumber.

Years ago, there was a cell phone commercial that had as its tag line, "Can You Hear Me Now?" It was dealing with the fact that many providers didn't have good service. Although the person on the call was talking, without a good connection, you couldn't hear them.

God is saying, if the Watchman is Blind, he can't "See Me Now!"; If the Watchman is Dumb, he can't "Hear Me Now!"; and if the Watchman is Sleeping; he doesn't even "Know Me Now!"

***Series and Sermon: God's Vision Plan: Watch For The Vision, Part II (Who's In The Watchtower)***

"Blind in the Watchtower, Dumb in the Watchtower, Sleep in the Watchtower"

***I. Blind in the Watchtower (Can you See Me Now)***

Isaiah 56:<sup>10</sup> **His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant**, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

The Watchtower doesn't work if the Watchman is Blind; he can't see the enemy coming!

Mark 8:<sup>18</sup> **Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?**

Jeremiah 5:<sup>21</sup> Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Blindness here is not about the visual ability of sight, they have eyes but still can't see.

Blindness is about being ignorant of the Spiritual things of God! **"They are all ignorant"**

Hosea 4:<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

John 4:<sup>23</sup> **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.** <sup>24</sup> **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

If we are to get a vision from the Lord, we need God to open our eyes, to open our ears, to open our understanding, to give us Knowledge and Wisdom.

Jeremiah 3:<sup>15</sup> And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Psalms 111:<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

The Fear of the Lord here is about the Reverence and Worship of God! And when we do it, we develop the ability to See, have Spiritual Knowledge, and Hear, have Spiritual Understanding.

"Can You See Me Now?"

***II. Dumb in the Watchtower (Can you Hear Me Now)***

Isaiah 56:<sup>10</sup> His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, **they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark**; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

The Watchtower doesn't work if the Watchman is Dumb/Mute; He can warn us of the approaching danger!

You've heard the phrase, "Warning comes before Destruction"!

Amos 3: 7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7 (NLT)<sup>7</sup> Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.

Dumbness here is not about whether you have the ability to audibly speak; it's about knowing what to say! **"They cannot bark"**

So why aren't we getting the warnings? Something has made the watchman dumb.

Proverbs 16: <sup>18</sup> Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pride will make you dumb, Arrogance will keep you from barking.

Years ago, my wife had a little dog, I think he had a Napoleon Complex because no matter how big you were, he would always bark at you when you came to the door. He barked so much that I got a collar that would zap him with an electrical shock when he barked.

But it didn't stop him from barking. Once he realized how it worked, he would still bark; but just soft enough so that the collar didn't shock him, but loud enough so that we still heard him.

That dog said, I'm a dog, and barking is what I do. As watchmen, barking is what we do!

Ezekiel 3: <sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

If I have to do it in a still quiet voice, I'm going to bark. If I have to do it in my prayer closet, I'm going to bark. If I have to do it late in the midnight hour, I'm going to bark. If I have to do it in a chair or on a crutch, I'm still going to bark!

"Can You hear me Now"

### ***III. Sleeping in the Watchtower (Do You Know Me Now)***

Isaiah 56: <sup>10</sup> His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; **sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.**

The Watchtower doesn't work if the Watchman is Sleep; He doesn't know what's going on!

When you are asleep, you are essentially dead to the world around you. But why are the watchmen sleeping on the job?

Isaiah 56: <sup>11</sup> Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds *that* cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

When you are greedy and eat too much, you produce Post-prandial Somn-o-lence.

The colloquial term is called "Itis". It describes the lethargic, sleepy feeling an individual gets after eating a large meal. A state of drowsiness or "Food Coma"!

We have too many watchmen that have "Spiritual Itis": Post-prandial Somn-o-lence.

When you eat too much of what the world is cooking, you lose your alertness to the Spiritual things of God.

1 Peter 5:<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Somebody once said to me, "Pastor you're too busy!" But what they didn't understand was that I needed to stay alert because I'm on Watch.

I can't sleep right now because I'm on Watch: Matthew 24:<sup>42</sup> **Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

I can't eat right now because I'm on Watch: Matthew 17: <sup>21</sup> **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

I can't rest right now because I'm on Watch: John 9:<sup>4</sup> **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**

I can't take a break right now because I'm on Watch: Psalm 1:<sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

"Do You Know Me Now"

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Watch For The Vision, Part II (Who's In The Watchtower))**

**Lesson Text**

- Habakkuk 2:1–3, Ezekiel 3:17, Isaiah 56:10–11

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. *Blind in the Watchtower (Can you See Me Now)***

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**II. *Dumb in the Watchtower (Can you Hear Me Now)***

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**III. *Sleeping in the Watchtower (Do You Know Me Now)***

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**Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)**

**I. Getting to Know "Me"**

1. Who makes the best pancakes? (IHOP, Waffle House, Another Broken Egg, Brigs, Home, Other)
2. What time do you go to bed at night? (9pm, 10pm, 11pm, Midnight, After Midnight, I Don't)

**II. Into the Bible**

1. Read Isaiah 56. In verse 10, who are the watchmen Isaiah is referring to? Provide scriptural support.
2. Ezekiel 34:2 is cross-referenced in Isaiah 56:11 KJV. How are these two scriptures related? Now read Ezekiel 34 in its entirety.
  - i. What were the errors of the shepherds?
  - ii. Who is the "one shepherd" spoken of in Ezekiel 34:23?
  - iii. What is the ultimate destiny of the flock? (Ezekiel 34:22-31)

**III. Life Application**

1. What kinds of things keep people from obeying a warning from the watchman?
2. What would you advise a person to do once the Lord has revealed a plan to them?