

"I HAVE MADE YOU A WATCHMAN"

Text: Ezekiel 3:17

INTRO: Ezekiel was a priest in the land of Judah at the time of the beginning of the Babylonian exile. The captivity took place in 3 stages:

1. 606 BC, 2 Chron. 36:5-7; Dan. 1:1-6.  
The prophet Daniel was one of those taken in the first group of captives.
2. 597 BC, 2 Kings 24:14-16. This is the group with which Ezekiel was taken.
3. 586 BC, 2 Kings 25. The Jerusalem wall was broken down, the temple looted & burned, the houses of all the influential Jews were burned down.

I. EZEKIEL 3:16-21.

A. The wicked will NOT be saved by a failure to warn them. "Ignorance is bliss," & "What you don't know won't hurt you" are false proverbs, vs. 16-19.

1. If the wicked person isn't warned, he will die in sin.
2. If he is warned but refuses to heed he will die in sin.  
John 8:21. Cp MK 16:15-16.

B. The watchman's own salvation is at stake.

1. If he doesn't warn he will be lost.
2. If he does warn he will be saved.

C. Those who are presently righteous need to be warned about the danger of sin, vs. 20-21.

1. If they turn from their righteousness to sin, they will be lost.
2. If they avoid sin they will live.
3. Again, note that the salvation of the watchman depends on his being faithful in discharging his duty. He is not judged on result, but on faithfulness.

## II. EZEKIEL 33:1-11.

- A. If the watchman is faithful... vs. 1-5
- B. If unfaithful... vs. 6-9.

NOTE: Why would the watchman not warn???

1. Asleep
2. Not recognize the danger.
3. Not paying attention to duty.
4. A traitor.
5. Afraid they won't believe.
6. Don't want to over-react.
7. Good intentions, but let them sleep a little longer.

NOTE: His reasons for failure are immaterial. The final result is the same.

C. The watchman's message: vs. 10-11.

## III. MODERN APPLICATIONS.

A. Elders.

Obey those who rule over you & be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give

account. Let them do so with joy & not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Heb 13:17).

Acts 20:28-31, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, & remember that for 3 years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

#### B. Preachers.

2 Tim 4:2-5, Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering & teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; & they will turn their ears away from the truth, & be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

1 Tim 4:16, Take heed to yourself & to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

#### C. Christians in general.

1 Thess 5:4-6, 14, But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch & be sober? Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

Exton, PA, March 17, 1985

La Porte, TX, August 9, 1985 (meeting)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 23, 1997

La Porte, TX, March 2, 1997 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 1, 2002