

WATCHMEN ON OUR WALLS

“I have set watchmen on your walls, Oh Jerusalem” (Isa 62:6). Today we have warning systems to alert us about all kinds of danger, including enemy attacks on land, sea or from the air; but in medieval and Bible times there were no alarm systems or satellites to warn cities of approaching enemy armies. Watchmen patrolled the walls and would call out: *“All is well”* to a sleeping people—or *“Wake up! An enemy approaches!”* In America's Revolutionary War Paul Revere rode through the night crying *“The British are coming! The British are coming!”* He was a watchman on the wall so to speak.

Now we have warning systems in place to warn of all kinds of domestic danger, including enemy attacks on the ground, sea or in the air. Watchmen on the walls were vital defenders in Bible times, but my Bible commentary also ascribes this passage to the end time, and if ever the current news was indicative of “last days” maneuvering by the nations—which could culminate in Armageddon—this is the time we need God to set ***watchmen on our walls.***

In my lifetime I have observed a number of **watchmen** crying out for the church to be alert; calling for believers to gather for intercessory prayer; and warning the general population that the last prophecies are being fulfilled. Before my birth God poured out His Spirit at Azusa Street (about 1906), birthing the Pentecostal movement. At North Battle Ford (about 1948) worship and praise revitalized the gifts of the Spirit (Latter Rain) and in the 50s and 60s the charismatic movement penetrated historic and Catholic churches (remember Notre Dame). Signs and wonders spread across America, together with a fresh missionary zeal, and took the Gospel into most of the third world countries following World War II.

I had a small part in the post-war evangelism in West African countries, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil—as Wings of Healing spearheaded healing crusades and pastoral training that resulted in the explosion of church planting. There were other ministries at the same time, all of which planted the seeds for miracles and salvation; and healing ministries like T.L. Osborn, Oral Roberts and Reinhard Bonke followed with mass crusades that broke the power and fear of satanic witchcraft that plagued third world nations for centuries.

In a sense, these and other ministries, were post-war **Watchmen on the Walls** to alert the church that it was God's time to proclaim the Gospel world-wide. The result was that third world countries gained spiritual and political freedom. However, Satan has been hard at work. Third world political leaders have not acknowledged or obeyed the Christian God, and Russia and China have filled the void by recruiting nationals to create terror and rebellion. These trained terrorists have caused domestic violence, attacking Christians and overthrowing governments—leaving millions homeless, hungry, diseased and dying.

The technological explosion can now spread the Gospel by means of radio, satellite television and smart phones, even where the Christian faith has been banned, enabling poor people around the world to hear the Gospel 24/7. A number of prominent ministers and writers have promoted the second coming of Jesus far and wide with books, videos and satellite TV. The message is getting out but millions in the U.S. and around the world still have not repented and submitted their lives to the Lord. A greater problem is that many believers—and most civic leaders and politicians—are blind to current events in the world which could explode into the end-time battles that will usher in the return of the Lord, at least little is said in either the pulpit or the press as of this writing.

One prominent end time writer has recently mentioned a number of international hot spots including Egypt, Libya, Syria—nations surrounding Israel (**see Psalm 83**)—and the recent appearance of ISIS making a blitzkrieg invasion of cities in Syria and Iraq, and declaring they will establish an Islamic Caliphate. This seems to be an Arab conflict between Shiite and Sunni religious factions which could draw Iran into a military partnership with Southern Iraq—and a critical threat of nuclear warfare.

Adding to the Middle-East crisis Russia's recent invasion of Crimea and Ukraine, together with Russia's friendship with Syria and Iran, a recent commentator said that this could be the end-time prophecy of Gog and Magog shaping up. He added the U.S. is having little influence on what seems to be a gathering of

nations against Israel, and that end-time prophecy says nothing about the U.S., or any nation like the U.S. His conclusion seems to be that Russia's move against Ukraine may be the forerunner of Magog's plan to join key Arab countries; and if U.S. power and importance fades on the world stage we may be too weak and too indecisive to defend any move against Israel.

This serious item was on News Max June 21, 2014: *“Two hostile nations with a combined 230 nuclear warheads have placed 650,000 troops along their mutual border. And one of the Prime Ministers has declared the single flashpoint that allows his nation to initiate its first-use policy regarding nuclear war has been activated. Making matters worse is this—there are no fewer than 8 Islamist terrorist factions with open alliances to these unstable militaries, including both the Taliban and al-Qaeda. And their proximity to these warheads has become a grave concern for our (U.S.) intelligence community. It's critical every American understands what's escalating at this moment”.*

My personal sense is that the EU may be the reformation of the Roman Empire, and that the attack against Egypt's and other nations' governments in the Mediterranean in 2011, with the recent formation of ISIS in Syria that is now invading Iraq, signals the possibility of a sudden strike against Jordan and Israel. Could this be when the nations listed in Psalm 83 lose their statehood, (they are not listed in Ezek. 38 & 39), because God intervenes and Israel is left in political control of those defeated countries (The land controlled by David and Solomon). Additionally, Russia is now positioning itself as the world's greatest military power while the U.S. reduces its military to pre-World War II levels—and there is the nuclear threat of China and North Korea.

The U.S. is facing grave decisions, including serious threats to our national security, and may be losing its influence in world affairs; but elected leaders and politicians make little mention of prayer. What did the prophet say—*“Not by (human) might or power, but by MY SPIRIT sayeth the Lord” (Zech 4: 6)?* No—without God we cannot solve national and international problems. Yes—we still need **watchmen on our walls** to see what is happening and give warning to the church to stand fast upon Christ, the solid rock—and redouble the urgent necessity for prayer and intercession. Will you pray about forming or joining a prayer ministry? I attend several weekly prayer meetings at my church, and partner with Dale Gentry who has a national prayer ministry (www.LetsPrayAmerica.com) **check it out.**

You may belong to some other local or national prayer chain; but the need is urgent for **watchmen on our walls** (prayer warriors) who see fast-moving global developments occurring in the light of end-time prophecies. Jesus said *“watch and pray”,* and *“could you not pray with me for one hour?”* We have often quoted the passage in **II Chron. 7:14:** *“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”.* There is an urgent need for Christian leaders to keep current with developing global events as well as prophetic events—and to be active **watchmen on our walls,** promoting prayer and fasting for a national awakening, a return to Bible morality and God's favor and protection against fomenting threats to our security and freedom from acts of terrorism.

We face national problems that only God's favor in answer to prayer can solve, we dare not trust in human wisdom and resources. Applying **Psalm 115:9—13** to America today: *“O America, trust in the Lord, He is your help and your shield... You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord, He is your help and your shield... The Lord has been mindful of you; He will bless you; He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great.”* If the church doesn't pray—who will? If the church doesn't move God's hand—who will? This is an urgent call for ministers to become **watchmen on the walls,** and by example lead their churches to **“watch and pray”** for the protection of God upon America and Israel.

BarnabasAD