

# “We Need Watchmen!” - Isaiah 21

## Isaiah 21

### READING OF GOD’S WORD

#### Isaiah 21:6-9

6 For thus the Lord said to me: “Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees. 7 When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, let him listen diligently, very diligently.” 8 Then he who saw cried out: “Upon a watchtower I stand, O Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed whole nights. 9 And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!” And he answered, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground.”

### NOTE ON SCREEN

#### MISPLACED HOPE

God’s people throughout history struggle with trusting in earthly things more than trusting in God. All of us [especially husbands and fathers] are to watch over ourselves and our families to see where we are truly placing our hope.

## Isaiah 21

### Vs. 1

1 The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea. As whirlwinds in the Negeb sweep on, it comes from the wilderness, from a terrible land.

*A prophecy against Babylon - but why is that important?*

### ASSYRIA IS IN POWER

***Babylon is smaller than Assyria - but is aligning with other nations.***

### BABYLON: ALIGNING WITH MEDES AND PERSIANS TO TAKE OVER

***Babylon is hoping to build enough relationships with others that they can overtake Assyria and regain their prominence.***

### JUDAH IS HOPING IN BABYLON

**Judah is placing its' hope in Babylon overthrowing Assyria (who is persecuting Judah) so their suffering will end.**

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## **PROPHECY ABOUT BABYLON CONVEYS A DEEPER MEANING**

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### **NOTE ON SCREEN**

#### **SEDUCTIVE POWER OF BABYLON**

The nation of Babylon represents misplaced hope in worldly power, might, wealth, pleasure, etc. In Isaiah's day they are looking to human solutions apart from God, rather than seeking God for their relief.

#### **Vs. 2**

2 A stern vision is told to me; the traitor betrays, and the destroyer destroys. Go up, O Elam; lay siege, O Media; all *the sighing she has caused I bring to an end.*

#### **BETRAYERS BETRAYED**

***What will take place is that the Medes and Persians will turn on Babylon and eventually war against their supposed allies - Babylon.***

#### **Vs. 3-4**

*[this is Isaiah writing about himself]*

3 Therefore my loins are filled with anguish; pangs have seized me, like the pangs of a woman in labor; I am bowed down so that I cannot hear; I am dismayed so that I cannot see. 4 My heart staggers; horror has appalled me; the twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling.

#### **ISAIAH MOURNS - TWO PLAUSIBLE REASONS**

- ✧ One is that *Isaiah* sees *more people dying* and *his heart breaks*
- ✧ Or that *Babylon* can *no longer destroy* those who are *persecuting Judah*

**Vs. 5**

5 They prepare the table, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink. Arise, O princes; oil the shield!

*In the face of war here is what Babylon's king does...*

**DANIEL 5: ACTUAL STORY OF BABYLON NOT PROPHECY****Daniel 5:1**

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

**Daniel 5:4–5**

4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. 5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote.

**Daniel 5:22–23a**

Belshazzar [you] have not humbled your heart ... but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven.

**Daniel 5:25-28**

And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

**Daniel 5:30–31**

That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

*Restart at vs. 5*

**Vs. 5**

5 They prepare the table, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink. Arise, O princes; oil the shield!

## FIRST PART

*“They prepare the table, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink” - they are **not worried at all about the coming war that they party.***

## SECOND PART

*“Arise, O princes; oil the shield!” is telling them to **prepare for war!***

## NOTE ON SCREEN

### ARROGANCE & POWER

Sometimes we all can get caught up in our own power and might that we forget that God is sovereign over all life. We forget that the very breath we breathe is granted to us by God and our days are a gift.

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## LET'S TRANSITION APPLICATION - FOR MEN - BUT FOR ALL OF US

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### Vs. 6

6 For thus the Lord said to me: “Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees.

## ISAIAH IS TO STAND WATCH

*“Go, set a watchman” - Isaiah is their watchman*

## NOTE ON SCREEN

### BEING A WATCHMAN

Men, we are called to be physical and spiritual watchmen over our wives, children, church, and community. Men today have often given this role over to their wives or left it undone.

### Ephesians 5:25–28

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

### **Vs. 7**

7 When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, let him listen diligently, very diligently.”

### **WATCHING FOR ARMIES**

*Watching for an invading army is caution instead of pride. It calls us to be aware of what is going on around us.*

### **NOTE ON SCREEN**

#### **A WATCHMAN IS ALERT**

God calls us to keep our eyes and ears open, being alert to any misplaced faith in our lives as if it were an invading army. Idolatry draws our heart away from God and towards things that can never save us.

### **Vs. 8**

8 Then he who saw cried out: “Upon a watchtower I stand, O Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed whole nights.

### **NOTE ON SCREEN**

#### **A CONTINUAL WATCH**

We are to be continually engaged in things that keep us alert to God such as prayer, reading the Word, fasting, etc. We need to engage in church, community groups, and discipleship., to help us to keep watch. Engaging in life with other believers also allows us to keep watch with one another.

### **Vs. 9**

9 And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!” And he answered, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground.”

### **1 John 5:20–21**

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son

Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

### **Vs. 10**

10 O my threshed and winnowed one, what I have heard from the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, I announce to you.

### **THRESHED AND WINNOWNED**

***This refers to the way wheat is beaten and sifted - but is a reminder to the people of God that they are being sifted out from those who worship God and those who do not!***

### **NOTE ON SCREEN**

#### **SIFTING OUT FALSE WORSHIP**

While God simultaneously judges Babylon for their sins, He shows Judah and Israel how they trusted more in Babylon's might than in God's. Where do our hearts trust in human things and not in God? How might God "sift out" the idols in our hearts?

### **Vs. 11**

11 The oracle concerning Dumah. One is calling to me from Seir, "Watchman, what time of the night? Watchman, what time of the night?"

### **CLOSING LINE**

***I wanted to close with this line, "Watchman, what time of the night? Watchman, what time of the night?"***

### **QUESTION**

***Will we commit to being the watchmen that the church needs, that the community needs, that our families need, and that God is calling us to be?***