

# The Military Watch & and the maturing of a Christian



by

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Title: The Military Watch & the maturing of a Christian

Copy right date: March 16, 2015

Published by Empty Vessels

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Cover image: courtesy of VeteranNewsNow.com

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Printed in America's

ISBN: none

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are King James Version of Bible

## *Dedication*

*This book is dedicated to those in our grandchildren's generation who want to make a difference. In particular my thanks go to those who now man the outer perimeters of our nation and culture. I especially want to thank two grandsons presently serving with the United States Army. One on extended active duty and one presently in the Texas National Guard. Both have several tours of duty in the Middle East. Both have endured the stress of combat conditions.*

*Colby and Gabe; this is written with you and your buddies in mind!*

*Our nation is made more secure by your military service. I appreciate it more than you can know this side of heaven.*

*May God bless your lives.*

*Semper Fidelis,  
A Vietnam era veteran*

# Author's Preface

Ever been assigned to a security watch? If so you have a story to tell. The cover shows such a watch on the border of Pakistan - Afganistan. Such watches are common in hot spots. A nation's survival can depend on early detection and reaction to planned invasions. Are **No Go Zones** being planted in democracies by Islam as part of a strategic invasion plan? In Vietnam we had a variation of this. We called them Fire Support Bases. Some we planted in enemy controlled territories. Stopping lawlessness in every form takes guts. A nation's watch can be hampered by unreasonable internal policies. Citizens can be blind to internal treachery. History records the fate of the many overcome by the treachery of a few within through stealth actions. Significant numbers are now distracted and in desperate need of hearing a watchman's cry as treachery increases. Dullness of spirit is an enemy to longevity. Few Americans think the USA can be overcome. They think we have sufficient police, sheriffs, federal law enforcement and military to keep us safe. As good as they are at the individual level, over all security can be neutralized by non rational policies such as I am now seeing: Race baiting, political correctness, diversity training, ineffective profiling, dishonest threat assessments, belittling the truth tellers, unholy alliances, inhibitions on capital punishment, etc. Such administration policies deflate morale and finally kills off nations. Effective laws alone can't inhibit criminals, prevent illegal immigration, or repel enemy invasions. It takes dedicated manpower and an informed citizenry. One would think the practices we are seeing would alarm our nation. But spiritual blindness is very stubborn. Godlessness keeps a people in the dark. The Bible warns of a time coming when it will become so bad, if God did not intervene no life will be saved on earth. Followers of Jesus asked him about the signs to look for. His answer is recorded in **Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, Revelation** and elsewhere in the prophetic writings. Biblical discernment is why enemies of Christ relentlessly attack the Bible, the Ten Commandments and outspoken Christians. They need to keep the masses ignorant and distracted to bring in their new order. Their lies must replace God's truth. The wolves in our midst are picking off the brave ones here and there who don't know God's way to stand and fight. The alarm is being sounded by a few watchmen. Are you listening? It is a very peculiar time for those who can see through the fog of national lies.

Dave Winecoff

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# *1*

## **watch or sleep**

### **a personal choice**

Ask any man who has experienced the fatigue that accompanies sustained combat what he would prefer doing. Catch up on lost sleep or go back out on a perimeter watch? Many would respond: “Catch up on sleep!” Keeping one's eyes open during sustained sleep deprivation can be as big a problem as a possible firefight. Anyone who has taken a long drive and is exhausted also knows what I am talking about. In a combat zone there is always a watch going on twenty four hours a day. It will wear down all called on to do this kind of work in time.

It is that way in the spiritual world also. Whether one who says he believes, really has any deep spiritual understanding; is indicated to me by his personal grasp of the spiritual warfare aspects of life. Most Christians don't seem to have a warrior's eye, and see things almost entirely through civilian eyes. There seems to be no real connection between their reality and what is really going on in the unseen realm.

A deeper understanding of truth for the distracted ones only seems to come after some encounter with the hidden source of all truth. That would be Jesus Christ! But even then many don't see him as the coming warrior he is, but as a small child or the lamb who laid down his life for our sins. We must come to know him in a more intimate manner to really awaken.

Look at the conversation featured by God in John chapter three. Here Jesus had a private conversation with Nicodemus, a civilian leader of the people who secretly came to him in the night. We can learn some focus changing truths by thinking about this passage closely. We all must humble ourselves

and approach Jesus to get beyond what we think we do know about him.

## **Call out to him**

*“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which though knowest not.”*

*Jeremiah 33:3*

Calling out to God in desperation is the beginning of most personal transformations. Many of us are being overcome because we are too proud to humble ourselves and call out to him.

*“I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”*

*Psalms 18:3*

When on watch a soldier sees or hears something strange, what should he quickly do? Certainly inform a superior. He may authorize him to open fire. He might put others on alert if the threat is real. A commander will certainly give those who are manning the front lines the support they need to keep from being overrun. And we have rules of engagement when things happen to quickly to consult a superior. Its the same in the spiritual realm.

Here is a verse I love and have pondered often. It talks about a reinforcing power we all need in our lives.

*“But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and, ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem...”*

*Acts 1:8*

If you are a Christian but have never opened your mouth on his behalf you know there is a fear of man that needs to be overcome.

To be effective on watch there is an attitude a sentinel must have:

*“What shall we then say to those things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

*Romans 8:31*

Having a really confident attitude depends on knowing this also:

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

*John 10:10*

Being on watch is not easy. If you are alone on watch it might have to do with overcoming a fear of the dark. Certainly it requires discipline. Between my two long thirteen month tours of duty in Vietnam I was assigned as the Guard Officer at Bangor, Washington for two years. We were quite short handed due to the requirements of war. For a Marine to be assigned to Bangor they had to pass more stringent tests to ensure their dependability and reliability because of what we were guarding. We had watches twenty four hours every day. Also an inner and outer security fence. Roving patrols, watch tower posts, and a quick reaction force. Because we were short handed we had what was known as a running guard. This caused wear and tear on the men under our command, so even though these were good Marines, we had discipline problems. They had to be corrected, and too many punished. Discipline is critical to efficiency, effectiveness and good order; especially in stressful situations.

*“For whom the Lord loves he disciplines, he scourges every son he receives.”*

*Hebrews 12:6*

Preventing and overcoming evil is one of our assignments here on earth. Are you aware of this? Jesus told a story to his disciples which clearly tells us we are to occupy till he comes. (Luke 19:11-13) He defeated death (Romans 6:8-9). He destroyed the works of the devil (Hebrews 2: 14-15). He delivered us from darkness (Col 1: 13). He has made all things new (2 Cor. 5: 17). These verses imply that since evil is still present on this earth that we have a work to do while here that requires a supernatural equipping.

Whether we are awake or asleep spiritually does not depend first on the acquiring of knowledge and understanding through education; spiritual or otherwise. Nicodemus had devoted his life to such a pursuit. No! It depends on one's personal allegiance. We in the church have different personal allegiances. Wife, children, parents, job, etc! But only one really matters: the one to a particular person, Jesus Christ.

Who we surrender to is everything. Where do you first turn for help when trouble comes along? When you are on watch you are told who to report to and in what order. It is the same in the Bible. We see a chain of command.

### **A very diverse lot**

Believers inside Christendom are a very diverse lot. We seem willing to place our faith and confidence in people and groups all over the map. There are many different leaders and groupings all wanting to help us understand what truth is all about. Though it may not be deliberate, placing oneself, between us and God is dangerous. In effect such people become mediators. Scripture is clear. There is one mediator. It is not Mary, the dead saints, or any living person on earth; be he pastor, priest, bishop, apostle, evangelist, prophet or pope.

Different denominations and groups worldwide say their allegiance is in Jesus. According to Wikipedia there are 41,000 different groupings in Christianity, all claiming their way to be the correct way. But is all this diverse spiritual help equally fruitful? What is most important? Membership or a true soul wrenching conversion? Can any human organization really ensure you find the right way to God?

This widespread diversity frankly speaks rather clearly to the desire for men out of fear to pledge their allegiance to others. Certainly there is nothing wrong with companionship and fellowship, or coming together for a specific purpose; if it does not hinder one's coming into right knowledge with the living God. We are encouraged in scripture not to forsake the gathering of the saints. There is a strong drive in most of us to gather together with others. But could all these various paths be demonstrating a real confusion within our ranks?

## **All leadership is not good**

Look what Jesus said to the religious leaders of his day who thought they were the keepers of truth. They challenged him often; the author of all truth. Some of their exchanges are recorded throughout the gospels. There are twelve passages that are very instructive of which I give you two:

*“For I say to you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:20*

*“Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not.”*

*Matthew 23: 1-3*

He goes on in this chapter to rake these leaders over the coals of a hot fire so to speak. We see Jesus doing the same thing in other gospels. Looking to human leadership for answers is not always a safe thing to do considering the recorded actions of Jesus.

Could continuing to attend the same assembly year after year have more to do with comfort with the familiar than with the gaining of new knowledge for some? Placing one's complete faith and trust in any person or assembly is a serious matter. He said of the scribes and pharisees: *“You render the Word of God of none effect through your doctrines and traditions.”* A very serious charge!

During my life I have sat in a number of different assemblies here and over seas. I have invested my time and tithes in some of them. In others I have sat in the pews and quickly moved on. Listening to the conversations of different spiritual leaders overtime tells me that the faith of many has little to do with a deep biblical understanding. One who looks to the experts, teachers, pastors and politicians, but spends little time in the Bible or

searching out truth on his own with the help of the Holy Spirit could be in deception. Deception comes in many guises: religious, secular, financial, social, personal....

What is any man made organization such as a local assembly or a vast government; but a system of people who come together for various purposes where a few in authority are definitely making their living and gaining social status off the backs of the many. This may seem too sinister a view, but it is my personal observation and experience over time.

Look at public sector unions: they serve themselves for sure. The public gets a short shift from many union members who are hard to fire even when clearly incompetent. You can tell their attitude by how they treat you in public one on one. Some are very good; some very bad. Many unions aren't held to a high standard of achievement by their union leaders who seem to have other priorities than the public good for sure. Many go against the will of the people and many union members! The faith of most now seems to be more in what government can do for them, than a faith and trust in the God of the Bible. Most of us look to such men rather than to God.

When things are going well we can think such a faith is well placed. Even when things aren't going well in society, government and religion work well for many. But government's ability to provide effective services in a fair and balanced way can breakdown completely and very quickly, as history has demonstrated on many occasions down through the centuries.

Such a breakdown never happens when one looks to our triune God instead of to man. When one puts his faith in government and the experts it is an unstable faith at best. At worse it is folly. History and the Bible prove my case.

### **subject to fear**

We all are subject to fear no matter who or what we spend our time watching: television, sports news, doing something useful like becoming really informed and trying to inform those around us about the true situation, or

following the lead of those we really respect. Fear is one of the most enduring plagues of man. Fear seems to have a life of its own with people moving up and down on the scale with respect to feeling more or less fearful.

I think one's level of fear and worry has everything to do with whether one is asleep or awake spiritually speaking. There are those who are asleep and never want to wake up. The underlying cause is fear. They are the type who will never volunteer to go on watch. Bottom line, they seem to care only for themselves. Nothing else appears to motivate them except self interest.

During the last four months of my third combat tour in Vietnam I was selected to become the senior aide de camp to the division commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. We visited the over all area commander's office a few times, an Army General named Stillwell who had our respect. I saw there a plaque with this quote. It so struck me I memorized it. I have often quoted it, and want to use it to end this chapter on watch or sleep.

*“War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.”*

**John Stuart Mill**

*English economist & philosopher  
(1806 - 1873)*

# 2

## knowledge is life

Long ago a prophet of God named Hosea warned believers that lack of knowledge can cause one to die before his appointed time. Some are called to be watchmen but all of us need to be watching. Those appointed to a watch are placed in harm's way to stand between us and those who would harm us. Yet each one of us needs to pay close attention, for there are wolves amongst the sheep. We hear instructions from officials placed over us, that are for our protection which we should heed. Listen closely to what they say, but watch closer what they do for all human leaders can't be trusted. God is sovereign over all! He has given us this sober warning to not reject knowledge:

*“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.”*

*Hosea 4:6*

The internet defines knowledge as: *“Facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.”*

174 times we find this word in the Bible. The very first time in **Genesis 2:9**. Here we learn there were two trees in the Garden of Eden. One is called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Most pastors focus their sermons on the Tree of Life, the more important of the two. This word *knowledge that defines one of the two trees* is of great significance. Lack of essential knowledge is one important key in discovering why so many people have problems they can't seem to escape.

## the lack of

The word *lack* is used forty times in scripture. We first find this word in a very interesting biblical conversation recorded for our instruction that determines the outcome of a city whose existence is called into question by its moral depravity: the city of Sodom. Here we find the first use of the word *lack*.

*“Peradvanture there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, if I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.”*

*Genesis 18:28*

We learn in this critical conversation that evil tends to congregate in cities. In this talk between God and his righteous man on the scene, Abraham; we learn that the number of righteous in a particular location determines whether or not God will destroy it because of the evil within. Abraham because his nephew, Lot, and his family resided in that city, is seen in conversation with God for their lives. God seems to let Abraham wittle him down to ten righteous.

Have you been crying out to God for anyone's salvation that is on the broad path toward destruction?

When the two angels were sent in to do their survey they couldn't even find ten righteous souls in this very large city. The other four cities that were also destroyed by fire that day apparently had not even one. The two angels of God hurried Lot and his family out of the city then destroyed that entire region for its wickedness.

In the aftermath of the attack in Paris by Islamic extremists we are hearing of a relatively new term: NO GO ZONES. In these neighborhoods even the police and fire departments won't enter because they are controlled by Muslims. And they boast they are coming to America to set up NO GO ZONES where Sharia Law controls. Evil is growing! Is this is a Muslim

strategy to take over cities, regions and eventually the world by spreading Sharia Law using the infidels own laws against them?

Jesus said that the final days would be like the days in the times of Noah and of Lot. Characterized by lawlessness! One biblical age, God destroyed by water; the coming biblical age He will destroy by fire. As I survey the increase of wickedness in our times it seems to me we are rapidly approaching our day of visitation.

We are told to be vigilant, remain watchful and pray: This is God's knowledge on how to survive.

*“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh.”*

*Luke 21:28*

*“Watch thee therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”*

*Luke 21:36*

I am watching. What do I see in my generation? Rampant abortion! Drug use! Greedy materialism! No prayer in schools! Soaring crime! Hatred of Israel! Lying politicians! Oppositin to God's word. Evil is growing. Knowledge of the type the Bible says to have (spiritual understanding) is shrinking! Yet our nation spends huge amounts of money on public education. How can this be?

## **money for education**

Communities across America are dumping tons of money into educating our children. Much of it is wasted. Look at the practical results from test scores compared with other children around the world. Many developed nations spend far less educating their children then we do, and achieve far greater success. Why is this? Obviously money is not the key factor determining academic achievement. At one point our education system was considered the

finest in the world. This is no longer the case.

*“The Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA, collects test results from 65 countries for its rankings, which come out every three years. The 2012 results show U.S. students ranking below average in math among the world's most-developed countries. They were close to average in science and reading.”*

What do I think the reason is that we are in a free fall? In 1962, the year I graduated *from college, we outlawed prayer and the Bible in the public school systems of America.* Since that awful national decision by the Supreme Court, we have seen achievement scores plunge. At one time the family and the church were rated among Americas top five most respected institutions. Now they seem to be the problem. Their importance is seldom mentioned by government officials.

Shouldn't an informed citizenry have begun to see the light by now and started to reverse these terrible secular policy trends? Divorcing God from the public arena hasn't worked for America. Our culture continues to grow darker morally. There is no change in direction in government. Its more of the same. Insanity now reigns in the highest offices of the land. How is this possible? Why don't people see the truth? God answers these questions in Romans chapter one if one wants to know the reason.

## **a man named Bezaleel**

In Exodus 31 we see God talking to Moses about a man named Bezaleel. A very strange name. He is mentioned nine times. Look what God says about him:

*“And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,”*  
*Exodus 31:3*

God is talking here about a man he personally equipped for success. He calls him “wise hearted.” Don't you think a God who equips such a man for such

great success should be revered in our society? Yet I have never met an American with that name. He has equipped all who are wise hearted in the same way, with his Holy Spirit. Why is it so uncommon for men to look to God for help in the important task of gaining knowledge? What kind of person gets God attention? A wise hearted man!

We have supernatural enemies that most take little account of. Our society makes fun of those who do. To not factor in the supernatural realm on a daily basis is folly. It is why America as a nation is stumbling towards chaos. Most younger people with no historical perspective or biblical understanding think things are OK. They don't have a clue. Our daily news is carefully screened to keep us in the dark spiritually. The elite maintain the impression government is doing its job through a compliant media. Heaven help those who see that government officials and the media need to be held accountable.

Most knowledge has some value. But it is a particular kind of knowledge that moves people out of the darkness of ignorance into the light of truth. Without this particular kind of knowledge no matter how high up the pinnacle of success one travels, he is destined for ultimate failure and a great fall, unless he wakes up at some point to what truly makes life real.

This is fact: Without God all is folly. Solomon learned the hard way and wrote about this at the end of his life in the Book of Ecclesiastes. There he talked about the vanity of knowledge. In the Book that follows the book of Ecclesiastes, Isaiah mentions this word even more often than Solomon did.

*“Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.”*

*Isaiah 5:3*

God's prophets explain why people go into captivity. It is because they have no knowledge. We see a growing number of Americans who have been lulled into a deep sleep by public education and their television sets and are headed towards captivity. It can be said of them, “They have no knowledge.” Entertainment and frivolous knowledge, not Jesus, is their King.

Those who observe and listen quietly to the thoughts of many see we are now following in the long line of nations whose fall was precipitated by moral decay. Hosea, Micah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah all gave warnings to the people of their day. There is now a wide spread lack of understanding of what made America great.

This growing ignorance of the One True God now seems to me unstoppable based on the biblical time line I am looking at. There is a growing effort to bring all the world's religions together under one earthly authority. The Vatican works hard to make this a reality. Scripture says it happens in the last days.

# 3

## there are watchmen

### a blinding spirit

How can we watch if we don't know what to watch for? And how can we know what to watch for if we are blind to the truth? Satan works overtime trying to keep people who claim to be Christians from ever opening a Bible, joining a Bible study, or, heaven forbid, speaking up in the name of Christ when prompted to do so. I know this is true of the average Christian for it was my state for many years of my life as a believer. If the enemy can keep someone in the dark he has him beat for sure. If you have ever invited someone you liked to a Christian gathering, you know the excuses friends and family members can come up with. And they are all reasonable excuses.

If Satan can get someone who wants to please God to marry or enter a business partnership with someone who has no interest in pleasing God even better. Such a person, as nice as they might be, will propel a believer in directions he or she doesn't really want to go in on their own initiative.

Anyone who has attempted to explain why they are excited about spiritual matters to someone who isn't, knows how difficult being unequally yoked can be. Watching is difficult when you have someone you know well tugging you in a direction you prefer not to go in.

How impossible it is for a believing husband or wife to convince their spouse that Jesus really makes a difference. It is also hard to find a believing couple to fellowship with where both spouses are equally excited about the things of God. It is in fact quite rare.

Children raised in the church differ in their openness to the things of God. It is more common than not to see a child when they are old enough, move out

on their own and depart from an active faith because their parent's faith never really became their own. I wrote a book that dealt with the problem of familiar spirits. One familiar spirit that every true believer sees operating against their family and friendship circle is the one referred to in **II Corinthians 4: 3-4** that blinds loved ones to the truth. To fight effectively you must fight against such familiar spirits resisting you using spiritual gifts for natural persuasion will never get the job done.

### **Only one savior**

Not one other human is called to be a savior or die as Jesus did on a physical cross. Yet we hear in our day that ISIS jihidists in Syria and Iraq are nailing Christians to wooden crosses, beheading innocent children, brutally raping and killing and taking slaves. It is very heart breaking! It is because areas that were once greatly influenced by Christians are now dominated by men ruled by demons. And most Christians have no idea they are fighting demons.

A demon take over can happen to any nation where Christians are not watchful and where their fellowships are infiltrated from within. When I was in Vietnam I saw men overcome by demons they were not familiar with, and bring them back home. Their guard was not up spiritually due to a lack of understanding of the importance of a faith in Christ and a lack of essential spiritual knowledge. They were still at best milk drinkers never having learned to eat the meat of the Word of God. Scary!

The brutality we are hearing a little about in the news is going on overseas in hot spots across the earth, especially in those areas under Sharia Law. But such devilish activity is not so much being experienced here in America, except for the occasional lone wolf attack against a Christian or Jew! But we are seeing increasing numbers of our citizens being overcome by paganism and witchcraft. And who knows what goes on when they meet in secret? This was very rare when I was younger. This does not bode well for America's future.

We in the church need to recognize that our own flesh and unbiblical ideas are our main enemies. We must put our flesh to death, pull down the enemy's

strongholds in our own minds, so God's Spirit rules us first. Then we can pick up the Sword of the Spirit and the Shield of Faith and begin to fight the good fight in the prayer realm and otherwise as the Lord leads to help others as Ephesian 6: 11-18 tells us to do. Why should other evil spirits obey us, if the ones we are familiar with, that are not of God, still rule over us?

## **The need for watchmen**

There is a need for watchmen to watch and sound the alarm to arouse the rest of us to battle. Who are these watchmen?

They are the one's whose warnings many church leaders are ignoring. We find this important word, watchman, thirty times in scripture, the first time in I Samuel 14:16. Here the King's son and his armor bearer went alone to fight the Phillistines at night. When the men in the camp heard the noise of the fight going on, they grabbed their armor and went to look for the two missing men. They found them fighting the enemy in the enemy camp. Have you joined the spiritual battle that is going on yet? Are you taking it to the enemy camp in prayer?

Watchmen are very important to our nation. We find this word used in ten books of the Bible. This next verse is one of my favorates. It shows the danger we are in here as we step away from Jesus Christ.

*“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain who build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain.”*

*Psalm 127:1*

This verse is very telling. Unless the Lord is involved in our affairs at the family, state, and national levels everything done is in vain. The watchmen can be awake and see the enemy and warn the people but it will do little good.

But it is good to be a watchman and to do your job according to this verse concerning watchmen even if most won't listen.

## *The watchman's duty*

*“Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman; If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.”*

*Ezekiel 33:1-6*

Scripture has a lot to say about dying to self and following him. This above passage adds to that theme. **Colossians 2:11** and **I Peter 3:21** further speak about putting off the sins of the flesh. Our flesh doesn't like to challenge others because there are often unpleasant repercussions. Anyone who is honest knows that denying one's own flesh is difficult. But challenging others to deny their's is no longer politically correct in our nation. Heaven forbid we should ask people to be responsible.

Try fasting for a season. Few are able to do it for long. I too dislike fasting. Have you suggested to an over weight family member they need to go on a fast? Such problems we see in others just aren't often overcome except by prayer and fasting. It is terrible to see a spirit like gluttony overwhelm someone you care for.

The word watchman is not found in the New Testament. Probably because the people were dispersed when the nation of Israel fell into the Dispersion. The need for national watchmen had to do with protecting God's special people. God called Ezekiel a watchman appointed by God. (**Ez. 3:17**).

We see the word applied in the Old Testament to soldiers standing guard on the wall of a city or in a watch tower. People need to be warned when the enemy is at hand, natural or supernatural. That was the function of the watchmen: to sound the alarm.

The church is not viewed as a nation, but is spread out across the nations of the world. Its people within desperately need watchmen to sound the alarm among God's people. Our assemblies are now being attacked from within. This attack is more in the influencing others realm at the moment though there are some physical attacks for sure. We need those in the silent majority to stand up for truth right now. Later may be too late. More need to stand up now. This takes courage and requires some risk. But God isn't asking us to be stupid. Follow his lead.

The Bible is full of courage building verses and passages.

*“Help us, O God of our salvation,. For the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.”*

*Psalm 79: 9*

*“For God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

*II timothy 1: 7*

*“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”*  
*Romans 8: 37*

Have you ever thought of yourself as called to be a watchman?

# 4

## *restraining evil*

I remember well the 1960s. This was the decade of my life until the times we are now in, when I was shocked by the change going on in people across America. Hard to watch it on the TV nightly news. The transformation for me was made black and white by three overseas tours in a little over a decade where I was out of country for more than a year at a time. Each homecoming after a lengthy absence was a shock for me due to the change I saw in America. If Americans weren't marching and protesting; there was a revolution going on in the way they dressed, the music played, and the change in sexual habits and manners among people I knew. Shocking what changed in just over a year outside my country! It spoke of the growing indecency and rebellion against God. The creeping ineffectiveness of the church in America.

I experienced also how those who served overseas seemed unappreciated back home. Then there were the people like Jane Fonda and John Kerry who became idols to so many. Their behavior was shameful in my view. We who went to Vietnam were helping to stop world communism which was on the march. Yet many of us did succumb to temptations overseas, and came home with demons picked up in Asia, that have now spread across our nation plaguing many lives back home in the aftermath of this unpopular war.

Health and wholeness is vital to one's ability to serve and make a real difference in life.

*“And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;”*

*Mark 6: 7*

Here we see that before Jesus sent his followers out he equipped them for the

battle spiritually. For they needed equipping. Not only to stay clean themselves, but so that they could overpower the uncleanness in those they were sent forth to help. Many Americans that serve overseas are not so equipped morally to withstand the evil spirits in foreign lands. They are overcome, and bring them home to infected others and make our lives worse. Very sad! I don't think most of us have learned anything spiritually from that national experience in Vietnam.

I see so many brave souls who have fought in Iraq and Afganistan who are being overcome by similar demonic forces and also bringing them home. They were not equipped because they knew nothing about the overcoming power spoken of in Mark 6: 7. We talk of PTSD, but few see it as a spiritual attack.

### **most Christians confused about the mission**

Most Christians are confused about their mission after their conversion to Christ. When you fall in love with Jesus for the first time, it is really all you can talk about. Sharing this new found faith is a lot like a bride-to-be talking about her soon-to-be husband. Boring for those who haven't fallen in love.

A genuine conversion is rare according to the Bible. Until that fateful surrender there can be no lasting change for an individual in the moral realm. But along with that conversion come spiritual tools of warfare that many never pick up and use to clean up their own acts.

I have talked with different believers who are born again. That moment when they came to Christ for the first time is something that stays fresh in their minds. It is certainly one mark of a genuine conversion. I have talked about that moment of mine in prior books so won't repeat here. But want to say this: I grew up in the church and had several mental and emotional experiences along the way. But until my real conversion, well into my adult years, I was a mere pawn in the chess game of life. Now whether a pawn, rook or knight on the chess table; God can use me however He wills. No one should tag me with a label! But so few who are converted ever really become real soldiers of Christ. Most are just pretend soldiers.

At that point where I was truly converted, there was a definite change in my life. For the first time I had a real hunger and thirst to know the Word of God. And for the very first time, I suspect, Satan began to see me as a serious threat. Before that point in time, opening a Bible was like opening a dictionary in my experience; usually a dull undertaking.... It certainly wasn't like pulling a sword out of its scabbard and defending yourself.

If you visited my website to find this book you see my love for scripture. It has not faded since my conversion. Not by any human efforts of mine, but because His Spirit now lives within me. My books are full of life changing scriptures. That radical change in my life came 36 years ago in 1978 as several particular verses opened a door into the spiritual world that I found more real than any natural experience up to or since that wonderful moment in time. I still remember it like it was yesterday.

I have pondered what exactly I was supposed to do for Christ many times since that date. I have battled spiritual procrastination and still do. When heaven becomes a real place for you, you look forward to going home (to heaven) to be with the LORD. But while here we need to join the fight.

### **our mission here on earth?**

Unless the Father is drawing someone to Christ they won't come. So much of the soul winning effort of the organized church I fear is just flesh as far as someone coming to the LORD in a concrete way. In effect a membership drive without prayer support. But that effort can still help restrain evil. As I write this chapter it is clear to me, however, that we are to cooperate with the Restrainer who is holding back (restraining) evil. (II Thes. 2:7) A lot of this effort I suspect is Spirit prompted prayer for the major battle is still in the unseen realm until Satan's forces are cast down to earth which is soon.

To help restrain evil what must we first learn to do as believers? Could it be as simple as watching and obeying? Lets look at this word, watch. It is certainly a military term and so much more. I looked to see if I could find watch and listen in the same verse. I couldn't. Yet, at night in Vietnam much of the effort on a watch involved intense listening.

We find watch ninety times in the King James Bible. It is first located in **Genesis 31: 49**. Here it refers to the Lord watching over us. That is very interesting to me. Does this word, watch, imply a caring for? He watches over us because he cares for us! The second time we see the word used is in **Exodus 14:24** where we see the phrase “*the morning watch.*” We find here the day is divided into a series of watches. This specific verse is also about what the Lord is doing that particular morning.

*“And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.”*

*Exodus 14: 24-25*

What is our mission as Christians if the LORD is watching over us, his church, so carefully? Could it be as simple as doing what God told Moses to do in the next passage? To help him in his watch?

*“And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.”*

*Exodus 14: 26*

Moses did what he was instructed to do: stretch out his hand. This action done in faith opened a door for the LORD to act. Read the next few verses in that passage to see what God did in response to Moses' obedience? Many of us know this story because of Hollywood's fascination with it. He destroyed the enemies of Israel by closing in the parted waters.

## **The significance of the watch**

I want to look at some verses in the Bible to see what real watching is all about. Is the church called to watch for anything? We won't look at all ninety verses but those we do should be instructive. I will skip the first ten books

where the word is found to the Book of Psalms. Here we find it eight times. This following verse is the first place.

*“The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.”*

*Psalm 37: 32*

Wow! The wicked watch us. And what do they want to do to us? Slay us! Now that verse I find instructive. Have you ever thought of the wicked that way? Most of us think that accept for the occasional really bad person, if we leave them alone they will leave us alone. But the Bible says otherwise. Now page forward to the Book of Proverbs.

*“Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.”*

*Proverbs 8:34*

Here we learn that the act of a specific kind of watch will bless us who do so. We also learn here that watching involves waiting. We also learn here that we are to watch and wait for a specific person if we want to be blessed. Very interesting! What does God further say through his Prophet Isaiah?

*“Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield.”*

*Isaiah 21:5*

*“For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:”*

*Isaiah 29: 20*

These two verses in this book tell us a lot about watching. That it should be a part of our daily routine. That we need a bird's eye view to watch effectively. That it is a duty of princes. That we need to anoint our shield to be effective. Also that if we do our jobs well that the terrible one is brought to not in our lives.

## **The watchman Jeremiah did his job**

Jeremiah tells us the fate of those who watch not and turn their backs on God.

*“Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God. I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds. Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities; every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.”*

*Jeremiah 5: 4-6*

In Jeremiah we learn very specifically that God is a watcher of what we do.

*“And it will come to pass that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.”*

*Jeremiah 31: 28*

This next warning should put fear into the hearts of those that play church.

*“Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.”*

*Jeremiah 44: 27*

Look at that last thing God says through his prophet Jeremiah using this word:

*“Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.”*

*Jeremiah 51: 12*

We find this word used by God in military terms. We see that this word applies on both sides of a struggle and that God is solverign in the affairs of

all men.

We find the term twice in the next book. Both times I find it instructive.

### **The lamentor laments**

*“Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.”*  
*Lamentations 2: 19*

We know that in many military forces it is a capital offense to fall asleep on watch. God is saying here that while using your eyes and ears to watch for a natural enemy it is a very good time to pray for your children. Jeremiah, probably the author of this book did not marry or have children, but likely felt as God felt about the people, like they were his children.

*“As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.”*  
*Lamentations 4: 17*

God here exposes a great truth many Americans couldn't accept for if they did, they would have to revamp their entire lives. That great truth is this: Our nation is a vain help. It can not save us.

# 5

## holding on

A trained soldier if he is born again gains access to a whole new set of survival skills. Civilians too! But most never discover them, pick them up and use them. Its hard to say how different one is after a genuine conversion. Each instance is so personal, and afterwards there is so much more to overcome, but we have wonderful new tools to use.

My transformation came about while overseas on an unaccompanied tour of duty with the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment on the island of Okinawa. I had a lot of time to read, my Bible, which had been removed from the bottom of my list and placed at the top for the very first time in my life.

I want to make a couple points. First, I want to say I seriously began to read it nightly for the first time. God honored that effort! “*The experience*” when it came from my reading of the Word of God flooded me with a peace in its aftermath I had never known before. I experienced joy at a whole new level. In a very small way it was like a runner's high. I used to run six times a week. This high comes when a tired, sore runner pushes through the pain to get what is known as a second wind. It comes during a time of feeling like one is ready to give up and can't go but a few more steps.

### **A second wind**

My life priorities changed after that experience with God. He really did become first in my life. He wasn't first before that experience or even second or third, though I told myself he was. I know now I can trust God in a way I hadn't trusted in him before after that supernatural experience.

I certainly didn't see my role as a watchman for years after that moment in time. This was odd. Here I was an active duty Marine with a military

perspective, yet I really didn't see the military applications of the Word of God as I do today. The enemy of my soul seeing this day might be coming had with my prior cooperation constructed some mental strongholds in my mind. These were holding me back. They needed tearing down.

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;”*

II Cor. 10: 4

The enemy of my soul was now looking at me as a potential threat that I had not posed to him before. I certainly had a lot to learn from that point on to become a real threat. Thank God that experience gave me a sustained hunger to read and study the Word of God.

*“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.”*

Isaiah 64:4

*“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”\*

Psalm 50: 15

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exhalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*

II Cor. 10:4-5

*“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, can not be my disciple.”*

Luke 14: 27

Running across such scriptures and many more put me into his training program, and into the wilderness where one has a lot of time to think.

That was 35 years ago. A lot has happened to me since that wonderful first

lasting revelation of God. I certainly began to see and experience evil in a brand new light from that time on.

### **about this word evil**

God has a lot to say about evil. He uses this word 581 times speaking about it throughout scripture. We find it being used 39 times just in the Book of Psalms alone. 48 times, in the Book of Proverbs! In Jeremiah we find it 88 times. It is used many more times in the Old Testament than in the New.

Many of us are familiar with **Psalm 23 and the fourth verse:**

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*

If we would frequently just review these 39 uses of this term evil in just the Book of Psalms it would give us a whole new level of confidence and trust in the God who watches over us in the face of such evil as is rising in our generation. Many believe we will see the second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth in glory to put away evil before our generation passes away. *How do we endure and hang on in the face of such a flood?*

*“So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.”*

*Isaiah 59:19*

We endure because the joy of the Lord is our strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)

Before I go back to tracing some more uses of the interesting word *watch* I want to share on another verse.

*“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”*

*Proverbs 8: 13*

Do enough of our nation's leaders really hate evil enough to make necessary changes? Do most who confess Christ really hate evil? Would not things be different in this nation if we really did? We have a shortage of righteousness across our country. I was encouraged by the Spirit to look closely at the biblical use of this word, evil. It was a very enlightening study.

*“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”*

*Proverbs 22:3*

We are to notice evil when it comes near and hide ourselves from it. That is profound. Being close to evil is very stressful. This chapter is about holding on as the tide turns against Christianity. If we don't we could find ourselves washed out into a stormy sea at night. These would be terrifying times for those who are aware and don't know who to hold on to. Many are oblivious. They don't know what they will soon be facing.

### **Daniel's writings about end times**

I want to look at all four uses of the word watch in the Book of Daniel. One thing I learned from the late J.R. Church is that this book reveals a lot about the coming anti-christ and his lineage.

*“ I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven:”*

*Daniel 4:13*

I have had a completely wonderful vision that I talked about that personally ignited my faith. This was my one experience of a Heavenly watcher effecting my own life personally. But Daniel had many such experiences that obviously sustained him in enemy territory over more than sixty years. I think it prudent to take the writings of someone like that very seriously.

The book of Daniel has been attacked by many so called higher learning critics. This in my view means that Satan hates this book. None other than Jesus Christ quoted from Daniel. Does the book need any other endorsement?

We need to take what Daniel has to say very seriously as coming from God himself.

*“This matter is by the decree of the watchers and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”*

*Daniel 4:17*

The above verse is another way of saying that God is over all the kingdoms of men; even those run by the basest of men. We see actions from the highest offices of our land that were not conceivable in earlier administrations. I often shake my head in disbelief. The quality of national and state leadership is deteriorating quickly.

*“And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;*

*Daniel 4:23*

We are seeing here God's administration over a particular nation that is mentioned in end time eschatology. He sent one of his watchers down to earth to make a prophetic statement which then changes the situation. We see from history it came to pass. King Nebuchadnezzar went crazy and dwelt for seven years on all fours among the beasts of the fields. Then he was restored to a right mind. Before this occurred in his pride he thought he was the King of the Universe. After his recovery he acknowledged Daniel's God as the LORD of all.

*“Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.”*

*Daniel 9:14*

We see here the Lord watches over all: both good and evil and is involved in every aspect of life. So how can we hang on if it were not for his divine favor? The above verses tell us it is impossible. We can't. It is folly to think we are really in charge of our lives. Only those who are holding on tightly to Him will be safe.

# 6

## *outlasting the others*

### **the last man standing**

There is a legend about the last Apostle, John the Revelator. It is said that his enemies tried to boil him alive in oil and couldn't do it, so he was banished to the Isle of Patmos. It was here that he wrote the Book of Revelation. The Bible doesn't record his death. I don't know about the attempt to boil him alive in oil. But it is clear he lived to a ripe old age. He was still alive in AD 99 according to scholars. He was definitely the last of the Apostles of Jesus to remain alive. The deaths of all the other apostles were all recorded in scripture. Why was his death not recorded?

How did he outlast the others? Certainly he must have been favored in a special way by Jesus. The Bible records a couple of Jesus' statements indicating such favor.

While nailed to the cross and dying, **John 19: 26-27** records Jesus transferring to John, the only one of his disciples with the courage to be present at the cross during his death, the care of his mother. From that time on it is recorded, he took Mary into his home. He must have followed in some way the advise of Nahum.

*“He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy faces, keep the munition, watch the way, make the loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.”*

*Nahum 2:1*

## **the biblical instruction to watch**

The book of Nahum is about the Destruction of the wicked city of Nineveh and tribulation. Jerusalem was so destroyed 36 years after Jesus returned to Heaven. And there will be even greater destruction during the coming Great Tribulation. What can we learn from our biblical instruction to watch?

*“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 reproved.”*

*Habakkuk 2:1*

Hearing and obeying are critical to the ability to endure long after others of faith have passed on. If you have ever stood watch as I have, you know it can be a quiet peaceful time. Except maybe for the pounding of one's heart in times of uncertainty. Often I have been entertained by the sounds of the crickets chirping, a peaceful sound. No nearby enemy!

It can be a wonderful time to commune with God. Certainly to seek his help with the watch. And it can be a major battle at times to stay awake and alert.

*“And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.”*

*Matthew 14:25*

## **the wonderful presence of God**

Jesus is wonderfully alive and present to all generations. Certainly his disciples learned this about him, for they turned the world upside down after his departure. The entire Bible is about him for sure. To get absorbed in the reading of scripture is to learn of him and to be present with him.

The enemy likes to attack a strong position at night when their approach can stay more hidden. This is the most critical time for a watch, especially in the fourth watch of the night, just before dawn. The night is a time when those who would reinforce the watch are asleep. Effective watches are critical for our security.

In the verse above we see Jesus demonstrating to his disciples in their fear his divinity and supremacy over the stormy sea. They learn once again they can rely on his faithfulness. We too need to learn that lesson in our storms of life.

*“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”*

*Matthew 24:42*

This verse is I think first about his second coming. But in all generations since his departure I believe there is a time in each of our lives when he is especially present. But we need to be watching to experience such a time.

He is our “*blessed hope*” and not just at the time of the rapture of the church. That day will be a miraculous coming for sure. Even more spectacular than his walking on the stormy sea to save his disciples who feared for their lives.

But that day so long ago, though maybe not so important to us, in their fear, was a critical time for them. We all will probably be in desperate need at some point in our lives. And then only his presence will suffice.

*“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”*

*Matthew 25:13*

In the two above verses the Master of our souls exhorts us to watch. That is how important watching is to life and living for all of us, no matter where in history he places us.

### **A watch unto death**

*“Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.”*

*Matthew 26:38*

Here we see a watch unto death. The disciples couldn't understand supernaturally what Jesus was going through his last night on earth, for they

all fell asleep. Like us they too were dull of hearing having not yet been born again of the Spirit. This only happened for them after his resurrection from the dead.

How many of us are dull of hearing in our generation and need to experience his resurrection from the dead? Are we hearing what the Lord is saying to us now? Do we need a wake up call?

For instance do you know someone who is dying who needs human comfort? Are you being called to watch with a particular person who is going through great pain or emotional suffering right now? Are you standing with someone waiting for Jesus to come and comfort them?

*“And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?”*

*Matthew 26:40*

### **the length of a watch**

Some in the church, which is his bride, have been watching for his coming in each of the last forty generations (if a generation is fifty years). It has been that long since his departure back to heaven to build homes for his bride in his father's house.

Sadly many in the institutional church who confess Christ are now asleep and not watching for his return. This is what scripture tells us the state of humanity will be in the last days.

*“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

*Matthew 26:41*

Every military man has experienced the difficulty of staying awake on watch. It is an important part of our military training for security is necessary if not in war than during peacetime. In a combat zone it is even more important than during peacetime watches where you are guarding mostly against vantalism, theft or fire.

The enemies of Jesus while he was dying on the cross; and after he was laid in the tomb after his burial, during that important first three days, posted a watch.

*“And sitting down they watched him there”*  
*Matthew 27:36*

*“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.”*  
*Matthew 27:54*

### **it takes an earthquake for some**

His enemies feared the things said about him were true. They posted a watch to make sure they ended up not being true. They wanted to continue in their sin. It seems most of us need an earthquake to wake us up. I believe this centurion spoken of above was probably the one who later is mentioned in scripture as being the first non jew to come to faith in Christ. That earthquake and his assigned watch changed his life for ever.

We see another significant watch that was posted by his enemies. It did no good. Read this entire passage to see that they still feared him after the cross.

*“Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.”*  
*Matthew 27:65-66*

Little good it did them.

*“How when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.”*  
*Matthew 28:11*

This time of watching during the death and burial of Jesus was so significant

it is recorded the same way in the first three gospels in essentially the same manner. The next use of this word is not in John, but in Acts.

*“But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.”*

*Acts 9:24*

### **their anger turned on us**

With the physical death of Jesus (though he was very much alive) his enemies turned their wrath on those who stood with him. Here we see their venom towards Saul who later we come to know as Paul. Look at the next use of this word. I believe it is highly significant in our generation.

*“Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”*

*Acts 20:30-31*

Because of the end times we find ourselves in we can expect and are to watch for the treachery that is in our midst, so we are prepared not to be overcome by it. We see so many today who don't believe in the sure word of prophesy. We are all called to be watchers.

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”*

*I Corinthians 16:13*

Next we see Paul using this word to describe some of his life experiences.

*“In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;”*

*II Corinthians 6:5*

*“In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in*

*fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”*

*II Corinthians 11:27*

### **not all fun and games**

The life of a Christian is not all comfort, fun and games. How demonically controlled is the region of the world you live in? Paul knew the discomfort of watching and waiting. Demons had a lot of control at the time of the first coming of Christ, and their control is increasing in our age everywhere. We need to be avoiding the enemy and waiting on God to act. At the end of the highly significant teaching in **Ephesians 6** on how to put on the armor of light for spiritual warfare, he told us this:

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perserverance and supplication for all saints;”*

*Ephesians 6:18*

When someone is scared, praying should increase. A wise watchman will pray a lot during a dangerous watch. The verse that follows has this theme.

*“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”*

*Colossians 4:2*

We are further exhorted to:

*“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”*

*I Thessalonians 5:6*

In another of his epistles Paul gives further direction to young Timothy.

*“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”*

*II Timothy 4:5*

*“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

*Hebrews 13:17*

The Apostle Peter adds to what Paul had to say about watching.

*“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”*

*I Peter 4:7*

Jesus, our Lord, through his faithful witness, John the Revelator, tells us this:

*“Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”*

*Revelation 3:2*

**our Lord faithful to warn**

Our Lord further gives his church this end time warning:

*“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”*

*Revelation 3:3*

At the end of this important book one final time Jesus uses this important word to warn his church:

*“Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garmets, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”*

*Revelation 16:15*

In the forward at the beginning of this book I made the point we need more to help with the watch. Are you seeing how important this activity is? It may be too late to help the nation, but not your family or someone you love.

# 7

## rise of the NWO: last days sign

In my early life Communism was on the move in the 1960s in Asia as I came of age to join the fight. There was a worldwide push on to bring in a new world order. Stopping it was what the Cold War was all about. So were our efforts in WW I and II. Are we now slipping back into a new cold war? Or is WW III just ahead?

Most in my generation think we lost the Vietnam War. But we didn't. We stopped the Communist advance by making it such an expensive war for Russia and China their take over of the continent was defeated. That advance now seems to be on the move again this time by Islam.

As a combat observer with the Vietnamese Marines in late 1964 and early 1965 I found myself in a foreign nation, quite alone culturally speaking and wondering about it all. What were we really doing over there? Half way around the world from America! Up until then I hadn't really heard much in the news or really thought much about such matters.

I was a lieutenant at the time. After arriving in Vietnam in December I was assigned to travel with a Vietnamese rifle company to experience the war first hand at that level. I was to write a report when I returned to my regiment on my experience to be used in training our troops on what to expect.

Personal alertness was critical to my own well being. It was an intense experience. One of the fifteen observers I was with was badly wounded and captured. He spent seven years in captivity, and died in North Vietnam. The infantry battalion I was assigned to was the reaction force for the delta region south of Saigon.

## **Fatigue can be a killer**

Following that short observation tour I reported back to my regiment in Hawaii. Three months later it was deployed to Vietnam. I spent thirteen months as a platoon commander and executive officer of a rifle company in Vietnam. After two years back in the U.S. I was again deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment as a rifle company commander. The so called Cold War that eventually stopped the advance of Communism had become a hot war for me.

During my combat tours one thing I learned personally was how tired Marines become after a full day of patrolling in the hot sun. With the constant strain of enemy contact on your mind! We could all fall asleep in an instant. Even while posted on watch! Those on watch needed to be visited by those above them in the chain of command to ensure the security of the unit lest they fall asleep. Falling asleep can be deadly, not just for an individual or his unit, but for a nation as well. You can't assume the enemy is asleep too.

## **Evil is advancing**

Is this generation any different from any other generation since the first coming of Jesus Christ to earth 2,000 years ago? There has been war and rumors of war in every generation. Yes our generation is different. God is now regathering the Jews whom he scattered among the nations after they rejected him. There are two signs that this is the last generation that never occurred before. The rebirth of Israel in 1947. This he foretold. And the recapture of Jerusalem in 1967 also foretold.

We know our God is the real God because he tells us what is going to happen in advance (prophecy). He has told us that the generation that sees these two signs will not die off before he comes again.

No matter the situation before us prophetically we all need to have a healthy respect for our potential enemies and an even healthier respect for our God. Fatigue is an enemy to the alertness we must have whether we watch for God or for the enemy's advance. We now see that our national leaders are asleep to many of the dangers, having been distracted by less important matters.

The number one thing I want in my leaders is a healthy respect for the living God and to keep us secure from our enemies. Yet this does not seem to be our number one national priority.

### **pretended friendship**

When we stopped the Communists in Southeast Asia, it seems to me that the new world order crowd came up with a new strategy. They pretended friendship with us, tore down the Berlin Wall, and got into a different kind of war, a trade and cultural war. The result of this new strategy has been the shrinkage of our economy, the loss of our manufacturing capability, and the weakening of our moral determination. Its hard to fight for long a war overseas with a weak economy, reduced manufacturing capacity, and immorality at home.

What does any of the above have to do with the coming New World Order? Threats are present in all kinds of forms. Those who are intent on bringing in a new world order have learned they can bring it in more effectively through stealth and cunning than with brute force. Direct war didn't work for them against America.

They must subvert the U.S. Constitution and our faith which guarantees certain liberties that we have been endowed with by God: three being life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There are others too such as the right of assembly, free speech, religious freedom, the right to bear arms, etc. All these are guaranteed to us. This Constitution was unique in history at the time of our nation's founding. All our rights are under attack.

To bring in this new world order our enemies must destroy our way of life and the individual freedom and prosperity Americans enjoy. Is that not what those who pay attention are seeing now? It seems that many of our leaders who should be for us are against us. Everything bad that can happen is happening now. There is a full scale attempt to erode America from within.

The Germans threatened to beat us but couldn't. The Japanese attempted to beat us but failed. World Communism attempted to beat us and couldn't. Now Islam is attempting to beat us. Behind all such attempts to take over the

world stands Satan. But now we are in a weakened condition. Unless God says OK it can't happen. But nationally we seemed to have turned away from God.

## **Occupy til I come**

The only way such destruction as is now being threatened can be hindered is for those of us willing to resist such threats to stay awake and on watch cooperating with *The Restrainer* (II Thes 2:7). Such threats must be hindered however and wherever they surface by those of us who see our nation's condition spiritually. The Bible tells us what will happen *right up until the end*. We have the Lord's words that:

*“we are to occupy til he comes.”*

*Luke 19:13*

We are not to fear. The Bible warns us many times not to fear, but to be bold and courageous for the Lord our God is with us.

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, There am I in the midst of them.”*

*Mathew 18:20*

The Old Testament is full of examples and types which are for our instruction.

*“Now all those things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”*

*I Corinthians 10:11*

At his first coming Jesus Christ set for us a bold example. We know that no harm could come to him until he for our sakes laid aside his own power in the Holy Ghost, so his enemies could over power him so that he could complete his mission of dying for our sins to give us access to Heaven. There was no other way because we had all died in our trespasses.

*“When I was daily with you in the Temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”*

*Luke 22:53*

The Bible tells us in many places about the time of the end. We see now if we are aware and looking, what is now happening to bring Satan's plan to completion. We can see that darkness is once again gaining in power. As I type this, ISIS has just burned a Jordan pilot to death (reminiscent of the dark ages). Evil will have its final hour, a seven year period of time that follows the rapture. Some watchers are saying it could start as soon as this Fall. We know that just as at his first coming God has everything under control, even if we can't understand what is happening right now.

No matter the situation at hand, we must all be aware and watching. For our Lord, just like the commander of any human watch, can choose at any time to make an unscheduled visit to check up on any of us who are watching. He can also withdraw the watch all together (the rapture). Are things about to deteriorate this badly?

Our watch commander wants us to stay motivated. He loves each of us, and doesn't want us surprised when he comes to us individually, or when he returns for his bride at the rapture of the church.

Yes, we need to observe and be aware of enemy actions close at hand. For we have the power to hinder the works of the devil and those who follow and obey him. God has given us all the supernatural tools we need to carry out this important watch until his return.

### **what the enemy attempts to do**

Do you see what the enemy is doing around you and yours at the moment? If so then use your supernatural giftings to hinder him in the spirit realm. Or are you asleep and leaving such important work to others in the church and in government?

Prophecy gives us more than a hint as to what and who is soon to come on

the scene. Many books have been written about such matters. Subjects like *the coming antichrist, the first beast, the second beast, the mark of the beast, not being able to buy or sell without the mark, the illuminati* and so forth.

I will not go into any detail about the coming new world order in this book accept to say this: It is forming right before our eyes, if we know what to look for: But the Bible tell us we are not to be afraid of what we are now seeing inside and beyond America.

## **God is not surprised**

God is not surprised, and he has our backs.

In fact it should excite us: get our adrenalin pumping. For it means his coming for his bride is close at hand. His coming is the main thing we are to be watching for. It is "*our blessed hope.*" We have a mighty God and King who loves us dearly. He only wants the best for us.

How are they bringing in this beast system mentioned in the Book of Revelation? Below the radar screen through a committee process and the gathering of their committees around the world periodically under various venues such as global warming, green peace, financial gatherings, etc. While keeping many of those of good will inside government circles too busy to notice what is really happening under their noses! They have tried brute force many times before and it hasn't worked. They need us to be compliant and docile.

While we can see what they are doing we are not to fear. For the Restraining influence of God (*2 Thessalonians 2*) has everything under control. But we are to be aware and going about the business of our King because we are his ambassadors in this enemy influenced, but not yet fully controlled world.

## **the coming withdrawal**

Soon we will experience a withdrawal, as all ambassadors are recalled, when their nation (in this case heaven) is about to go to war with the Devil's

Kingdom here on earth.

So be encouraged! This last days sign of the rise of the NWO means God is very close to “snatching” his people off this planet to put the last part of his plan into effect. Before bringing in His 1,000 year reign on earth he will gloriously return to finish off the devil and his crowd.

We have much to be excited about and to look forward to, no matter our present circumstances. We are soldiers of Christ. We have been made to endure and overcome. Glory be to our God.

*“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

*I John 5:4*

### **like a thief in the night**

Seven times in scripture God warns us that he is coming like a thief in the night. But his own should not be surprised when he comes, for he has given us the signs of his coming and has promised to wake up those who believe in him with a midnight cry.

Since he is coming for his bride, the church, he will alert her so that she can make herself ready. It is the enemies of the church that will be surprised at the outcome when he returns.

### **We are not the only creatures watching**

While many spend much of their time watching for the appearance of the anti-christ this should not be our preoccupation. The whole of creation is watching for something else.

*“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our bodies.”*

*Romans 8:21: 23*

A large part of watching is waiting. This is why we wait.

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