

## ~WATCHMAN (278)

### .. Figurative Use

- **One who guards against possible harm to persons or property, often during the night, and who may sound an alarm in the face of threatened danger.** In military service a watchman is usually called a guard or sentry.
- Against the walls of Babylon lift up a signal. Make strong the watch. Post the **watchmen**. Make ready those lying in ambush. For Yehowah both has formed the idea and will certainly do what he has spoken against the inhabitants of Babylon. (**Jeremiah 51:12**) Footnote
- Now when Herod was about to produce him, that night Peter was sleeping bound with two chains between two soldiers, and guards before the door were keeping the prison. (**Acts of Apostles 12:6**)
- Against the walls of Babylon lift up a signal. Make strong the watch. Post the watchmen. Make ready those lying in ambush. For Yehowah both has formed the idea and will certainly do what he has spoken against the inhabitants of Babylon. (**Jeremiah 51:12**) Footnote
- When, finally, we entered into Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him. (**Acts of Apostles 28:16**)

### See Also GUARD

- As a protection against thieves and vandals, persons often were stationed to watch over ripening vineyards or flocks of animals, positioning themselves perhaps in booths or elevated watchtowers built for that purpose.
- And the sons of Israel went searching into the things that were not right toward Yehowah their God and kept building themselves high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen clear to the fortified city. (**2 Kings 17:9**)
- But as for Judah, it came to the watchtower of the wilderness.

- When they turned their faces toward the crowd, why, there they were, their carcasses fallen to the earth without anyone escaping. (**2 Chronicles 20:24**)
- He has built his house like a mere moth, and like a booth that a **watchman** has made. (**Job 27:18**)
  - And the daughter of Zion has been left remaining like a booth in a vineyard, like a **lookout hut in a field of cucumbers**, like a blockaded city. (**Isaiah 1:8**)
  - **Siege forces attacking fortified places had watchmen or sentries to give their commanders military intelligence.**
  - Against the walls of Babylon lift up a signal. Make strong the watch. Post the **watchmen**. Make ready those lying in ambush. For Yehowah both has formed the idea and will certainly do what he has spoken against the inhabitants of Babylon. (**Jeremiah 51:12**)
  - **When King Saul was in the field camp with his army he also had personal **watchmen** whose responsibility was to look out for their kings welfare.**
  - And the **watchmen** belonging to Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin got to see it, and, look! The turmoil swayed this way and that. (**1 Samuel 14:16**)
  - **Watchmen were often stationed on the city walls and towers to observe those approaching before they got close.**
  - Now David was sitting between the two gates. Meantime, the **watchman** went to the roof of the gate by the wall. At length he raised his eyes and saw and, look! There was a man running by himself. (**2 Samuel 18:24**)
  - So the **watchman** called and told the king, at which the king said; If he is by himself, there is news in his mouth. And he kept coming, steadily getting nearer. (**2 Samuel 18:25**)
  - The **watchman** now saw another man running. The watchman therefore called to the gatekeeper and said; Look! Another man running by himself! At which the king said; This one also is a news bearer. (**2 Samuel 18:26**)

- And the **watchman** went on to say; I am seeing that the running style of the first is like the running style of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, at which the king said; This is a good man, and with Good News he should come. (2 Samuel 18:27)
- And the **watchman** was standing upon the tower in Jezreel, and he got to see the heaving mass of Jehu's men as he was coming, and he at once said; There is a heaving mass of men that I am seeing. At that Jehoram said; Take a cavalryman and send him to meet them, and let him say; Is there peace? (2 Kings 9:17)
- Accordingly a rider on a horse went to meet him and said; This is what the king has said; Is there peace? But Jehu said; What do you have to do with peace? Get around to my rear! And the **watchman** went on to report, saying; The messenger came as far as to them, but he has not returned. (2 Kings 9:18)
- So he sent out a second rider on a horse, who, when he came to them, proceeded to say; This is what the king has said; Is there peace? But Jehu said; What do you have to do with peace? Get around to my rear! (2 Kings 9:19)
- And the **watchman** went on to report, saying; He came as far as to them, but he has not returned, and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the grandson of Nimshi, for it is with madness that he drives. (2 Kings 9:20)
- At times watchmen made their inspection rounds through the city streets as well.
- The watchmen who were going around in the city found me, The one whom my soul has loved have you men seen? (Song of Solomon 3:3)
- The watchmen that were going about in the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me. The watchmen of the walls lifted my wide wrap off me. (Song of Solomon 5:7)
- Fearful persons, awake during the dangerous hours of the night, might repeatedly inquire of the watchmen if all was well
- The pronouncement against Dumah! To me there is one calling out from Seir; **Watchman**, what about the night? Watchman,

what about the night? ([Isaiah 21:11](#))

- The **watchman** said; The morning has to come, and also the night. If you people would inquire, inquire. Come again! ([Isaiah 21:12](#))
- And it was only natural for watchmen themselves to long for the daylight to come.
- My soul has waited for Yehowah more than watchmen for the morning, watching for the morning. ([Psalms 130:6](#))
- Happy the city that, in addition to the watchmen, had Yehowah watching over it.
- Unless Yehowah himself builds the house, it is to no avail that its builders have worked hard on it. Unless Yehowah himself guards the city, it is to no avail that the guard has kept awake. ([Psalms 127:1](#))

#### •• Figurative Use

- Yehowah raised up prophets who served as figurative watchmen to the nation of Israel.
- And I raised up over you people watchmen, Pay attention to the sound of the horn! But they kept saying; We are not going to pay attention. ([Jeremiah 6:17](#))
- And they, in turn, sometimes spoke of watchmen in a symbolic way.
- For this is what Yehowah has said to me; Go, post a lookout that he may tell just what he sees. ([Isaiah 21:6](#))
- And he proceeded to call out like a lion; Upon the watchtower, O Yehowah, I am standing constantly by day, and at my guardpost I am stationed all the nights. ([Isaiah 21:8](#))
- Listen! Your own watchmen have raised their voice. In unison they keep crying out joyfully, for it will be eye into eye that they will see when Yehowah gathers back Zion. ([Isaiah 52:8](#))
- Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have commissioned watchmen.

All day long and all night long, constantly, let them not keep still. You who are making mention of Yehowah, let there be no silence on your part. (**Isaiah 62:6**)

- The **watchman** of Ephraim was with my God. As regards a prophet, there is the trap of a birdcatcher on all his ways, there is an animosity in the house of his God. (**Hosea 9:8**)
- These **prophet-watchmen** had the responsibility to warn the wicked of impending destruction, and if they failed to do so, they were held accountable. Of course, if the people were unresponsive and failed to heed the warning, their blood was upon themselves.
- Son of man, a **watchman** is what I have made you to the house of Israel, and you must hear from my mouth speech and you must warn them from me. (**Ezekiel 3:17**)
- When I say to someone wicked, You will positively die, and you do not actually warn him and speak in order to warn the wicked one from his wicked way to preserve him alive, he being wicked, in his error he will die, but his blood I shall ask back from your own hand. (**Ezekiel 3:18**)
- But as for you, in case you have warned someone wicked and he does not actually turn back from his wickedness and from his wicked way, he himself for his error will die, but as for you, you will have delivered your own soul. (**Ezekiel 3:19**)
- And when someone righteous turns back from his righteousness and actually does injustice and I must put a stumbling block before him, he himself will die because you did not warn him. For his sin he will die, and his righteous acts that he did will not be remembered, but his blood I shall ask back from your own hand. (**Ezekiel 3:20**)
- And as for you, in case you have warned someone righteous that the righteous one should not sin, and he himself does not actually sin, he will without fail keep on living because he had been warned, and you yourself will have delivered your own soul. (**Ezekiel 3:21**)
- And the word of Yehowah proceeded to occur to me, saying; (**Ezekiel 33:1**)

- Son of man, speak to the sons of your people, and you must say to them, As regards a land, in case I bring upon it a sword and the people of the land, one and all, actually take a man and set him as their **watchman**. (**Ezekiel 33:2**)
- And he really sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the horn and warns the people. (**Ezekiel 33:3**)
- And the hearer actually hears the sound of the horn but he takes no warning at all, and a sword comes and takes him away, his own blood will come to be upon his own head. (**Ezekiel 33:4**)
- The sound of the horn he heard, but he took no warning. His own blood will come to be upon his own self. And had he himself taken warning, his own soul would have escaped. (**Ezekiel 33:5**)
- Now as regards the **watchman**, in case he sees the sword coming and he actually does not blow the horn and the people itself gets no warning at all and a sword comes and takes away from them soul, for its own error it itself must be taken away, but its blood I shall ask back from the hand of the watchman himself. (**Ezekiel 33:6**)
- Now as regards you, O son of man, a **watchman** is what I have made you to the house of Israel, and at my mouth you must hear the word and give them warning from me. (**Ezekiel 33:7**)
- When I say to someone wicked, O wicked one, you will positively die! But you actually do not speak out to warn the wicked one from his way, he himself as a wicked one will die in his own error, but his blood I shall ask back at your own hand. (**Ezekiel 33:8**)
- But as regards you, in case you actually warn someone wicked from his way for him to turn back from it but he actually does not turn back from his way, he himself will die in his own error, whereas you yourself will certainly deliver your own soul. (**Ezekiel 33:9**)
- An unfaithful prophet was about as worthless as a blind **watchman** or a voiceless dog.
- His watchmen are blind. None of them have taken note. All of them are speechless dogs. They are not able to bark, panting,

lying down, loving to slumber. (**Isaiah 56:10**)