

Prayer Study #67

“THE WATCH OF THE LORD”

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels who are in heaven, neither the SON, but the Father. Take heed, WATCH AND PRAY; for you know not when the time is. For the SON of man is like a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants and to every man his work and commanded the porter to watch. Watch you, therefore, for you know not when the master of the house cometh, at evening, or at midnight or at cockcrow or in the morning, lest, coming suddenly, he finds you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH.

Mark 13:32-37

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(The following information is taken from the book *Watch of the Lord: the secret weapon of the Last-Day Church* by Mahesh and Bonnie Chavda. I would encourage you to get the book and read all of it for yourselves.)

WATCH(n.)-the act of keeping awake to guard, protect or attend(obsolete); the state of being wakeful; a state of alert and continuous attention

Throughout scripture there is evidence of God's power being released when people went without sleep(watched)and prayed-both individually and in one accord with others.

Old Testament Examples

1. **Jacob and the angel:** Genesis 32:24-28. Because Jacob watched throughout the night and wrestled with the angel, the Lord changed his name from Jacob(*supplanter* or *deceiver*)to Israel(*a prince before God* or *one who has authority before God*.)
2. **The Passover Watch:** Exodus 12:42. The Israelites in Egypt stayed awake all night and watched as the death angel passed over their homes, not killing their first born sons.
3. **The harlot Rahab:** Joshua 2 and 6. Rahab is type of watchman. She lived on the wall of Jericho. Archeologists tell us that all of the walls of Jericho fell except for one place in the wall that did not topple-most likely Rahab's house where she was told her whole household would be saved.
4. **The Prophet Samuel:** 1st Samuel 3 and 1st Samuel 15. He first as a little child was instructed by the Lord in the night hours. Later he, grieved that the Lord had rejected Saul as king, cried out to the Lord all night. Watching and praying were a continuing part of Samuel's relationship with the Lord.
5. **King David:** 2nd Samuel 12. David fasted and prayed all night for mercy from the Lord concerning his first born son with Bathsheba.
6. **King Solomon.** 2nd Chronicles 1:7. It was in the night watch that the Lord appeared to Solomon and asked him to ask for what he wanted.

7. **Daniel and the King.** Daniel 6:18. King Darius fasted, prayed and watched all night when Daniel was in the lion's den.

New Testament Examples

1. **Jesus:** Luke 6:12-13. *(Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.)* In Old Testament times people usually kept the watch to pray because of desperate needs. Jesus usually spent the watch communing intimately with His Father. The power of the Holy Spirit was released through these times. Keeping watch all night in prayer was one of the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry on the earth. Jesus fasted sleep to pray and miracles happened.
2. **The Widow Anna:** Luke 2:37. She was about 84 when she recognized the baby Jesus as the Messiah when others did not because she had served God year after year with fastings and prayers night and day.
3. **The Day of Pentecost:** Acts 1:14, Acts 2:1. The disciples and followers of Jesus were all together in one place and in one accord constantly in prayer during the ten days between the ascension of Jesus and the Day of Pentecost.
4. **Peter freed from prison by the angel:** Acts 12. The church was keeping watch for Peter at the home of Mark, the mother of Mark.
5. **The freeing of Paul and Silas from the prison chains:** Acts 16. About midnight Paul and Silas, though severely beaten and in chains in a deep, dark dungeon, were keeping watch and praying and singing hymns to God.

The Ministry of Paul as outlined by Paul in 2nd Corinthians

But in all things commending ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in WATCHINGS, in fastings...2nd Corinthians 6:4-5

The Fourth Watch

"The Glory of God seems to increase in our midst as we continue to watch and pray. During the fourth watch(between 3 AM and 6 AM), it is multiplied and the miracles begin. It was during the fourth watch of the night that Jesus walked on the water out to His disciples who were in a boat on the lake, striving against the storm(Mark 6:48). During a military campaign, the hours of the fourth watch are the most strategic hours of the night, the most difficult time frame wherein to guard against the enemy's attack and the time the enemy is most likely to attack. Medical personnel have another term for it-the dead of night, the time span when more deaths occur than any other segment of our twenty-four hour day. Biblically speaking, it's the time when the enemy of our souls is busiest, when soldiers watch most earnestly and when we must watch for God's instructions as we stand our posts on the wall of prayer.... The enemy of our souls is busiest at night, while most of us are sleeping. It is the night-the darkness-that has previously been Satan's prized possession. Through the Watch of the Lord, we are taking back the night and claiming it on behalf of its Creator, the Lord Most High."

Mahesh Chavda