



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

October 7, 2018 Fall Quarter Volume 37 Lesson 6
Pastor's Day/Columbus Day

THE WATCHMAN

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Ezekiel 33:1-9*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

Ezekiel was a priest and a prophet of God. As a priest, Ezekiel lived by his faith and the priesthood allowed him to freely devote himself exclusively to the Lord's service and the ministry of His Word. As a priest, Ezekiel interceded and spoke with God on behalf of the people. As a prophet, Ezekiel spoke to the people on behalf of God to reveal future events that affected Israel. His God-fearing spirit spoke only what the Holy Ghost instructed him to say and as an appointed watchman, Ezekiel forewarned Israel of sin's consequences.

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me (Ezekiel 3:17).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. God's chosen servants must be fearless and relentless keeping watch and resisting rebellion and gainsaying of God's Word (*Ezekiel 2:7-9*).
2. No matter how it is disguised, sin is sin and comes with a penalty (*Ezekiel 16:63; Habakkuk 1:5*).
3. God's Watchmen, one of whom was Ezekiel, must only speak what God tells them to (*Isaiah 21:8; Romans 10:21*).
4. God will judge the sin in everyone, saving the righteous (*Genesis 18:23-33*).
5. God-fearing preachers occupying the watchtower will proclaim the Word of God in season and out of season without diminishing or compromising the truth, knowing that judgment is a certainty and inescapable (*Romans 7:13; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:12*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

Ezekiel, as a "watchman," wielded the sword, the Word of

God (*Romans 13:1-5*). He was appointed to give a stern warning of impending danger where none was suspected. As a prophet, Ezekiel was endowed with the boldness and courage of the Holy Spirit to resist the hardhearted and rebellious House of Israel. The roll Ezekiel was commanded to eat was as the sweetness of honey to his taste, yet it contained God's message of "lamentations, and mourning and woe." As with Jesus, "bitter and honey" (*Isaiah 7:15-16*) gave understanding of God's Word, such as discerning the evil from the good. Ezekiel proceeded with "bitterness" and with the hand of God resting upon him, Ezekiel stepped forward with righteous indignation and sharp rebuke. Ezekiel was entrusted to deliver God's warning without change, lest he suffer a common penalty for every soul that was lost through his neglect!

LESSON SUMMARY:

Anointed of God, Ezekiel stood firm in his calling. God's message is clear: the wages of sin is death! (*Romans 6:23*) This warning can never be taken for granted or taken out of context. Repeating this message until Jesus returns ensures that it will not lose its importance over time. Yes, the message is very important, but deliverance hinges on the watchman delivering that message without change. The importance and duty of the spiritual watchman is highlighted when compared to that of the duties of an earthly watchman. Failing in loyalty to duty as a spiritual watchman is as severe as falling asleep as the watchman of an impending battle.

The message today is the Kingdom of God is at hand, and the manner one can enter into it has been revealed to all men through Jesus Christ. The fall of a corrupted Jerusalem had come to pass and a new beginning was at hand. Ezekiel played an important part in Israel's restoration, "*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them*" (*Ezekiel 36:26-27*).

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