© Victory Everlasting Gospel Free Seventh-day Adventist Church

June 25, 2016

The title of today’s sermon is:

© **“Where are the Watchmen?”** Part 2

© Before we begin, let us pray …

© In Ev 119.3 we read, *“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light-bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import,--the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.”* {Ev 119.3}

 © Ev 120.1 *“The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them.”* {Ev 120.1}

 © Ev 120.2 *“Shall we wait until God's judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them? Where is our faith in the Word of God? Must we see things foretold come to pass before we will believe what He has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, "even at the door."”--*Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 19, 20. (1909) {Ev 120.2}

© Pope Francis said, when Christ was on earth, His life was a failure.

© FAILURE? Really? If it wasn’t for that life, ministry and death on the cross, there would be no hope for anyone on the planet. But the day will come when the plans of the Papacy through the power of the dragon will come to a most miserable end, an abject total failure.

© Isaiah 21:6 **“For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.”**

© Definition of watch – The act or fact of keeping awake, especially in keeping awake or alert in order to look after, protect and to guard.

© *“The watchmen upon the walls of Zion should have been the first to catch the tidings of the Saviour's advent, the first to lift their voices to proclaim Him near, the first to warn the people to prepare for His coming. But they were at ease, dreaming of peace and safety, while the people were asleep in their sins.”*  {GC 315.4}

© Amos 6:1 **“Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.”** What is Zion? The church.

© *“A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times.”* {GC 315.4}

© Do you believe the sword is coming?

The following is from the 9th volume of Testimonies to the Church, page 11, titled “**The Last Crisis”**

 © *“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.”* {9T 11.1}

© *“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.”* {9T 11.2}

© *“The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.”* {9T 11.3} Aren’t we seeing all these things happening all over the world today?

© Not long ago a suicide bomber in Lahore Pakistan blew himself up in a park where many children were playing and he positioned himself where the majority of the children were, so as to cause maximum death.

© 60 people were killed and over 300 injured. The park was filled with Christians celebrating Easter. It’s hardly news anymore because suicide bombers are wreaking havoc and mayhem so often, almost daily. Shouldn’t the watchmen be sounding the warning?

© Maranatha page 141. *“Light has been given me that the cities will be filled with confusion, violence, and crime, and that these things will increase till the end of this earth's history.”* {Mar 141.3}

© It doesn’t matter which party is in the White House or Congress, things will get progressively worse. Look at the cities of America as they are riddled with increases of all kinds of crime.

© The infrastructure is crumbling and money is not there to fix it. Bridges and highways are in desperate need of repair.

© Look at San Francisco where they allocated 200 million dollars to make the city safer and things got worse. Prophecy declares that things will continue to get worse.

© 9T page 13 *“There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God's word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them.”*  {9T 13.3}

© *“The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming.”* {9T 13.4}

© *“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.”* {9T 14.2}

© When Daniel chapter 11 has been completely fulfilled, what happens when chapter 12 begins in verse 1?

© Dan 12:1 **“And at that time shall Michael stand up, …”** What does this describe? The end of probation for the world! Where are the watchmen? We must give the trumpet a certain sound. Are we giving it a certain sound?

© Matthew 5:13-16 **“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”** We are the salt, but have we lost our savour? Are we letting our light shine? Are we a faithful watchman?

© If 2 neatly dressed guys on bicycles pull up in front of your house, who are they?

© Mormons, right.

© If a car pulls up in your driveway and a couple of ladies get out with their pamphlets and books, who are they? …

© Right, Jehovah’s Witnesses. Why is it, when you ask these questions, the answer is never Seventh-day Adventists? The reason why is because we are not doing it. But we need to be watchmen. We need to be carrying literature to hand out to everyone we meet, whether at gas stations, stores or wherever God has people cross our path.

© Do you remember when Ben Carson was running for president and the news people learned he was a Seventh-day Adventist? Ron Goss was preaching at the General Conference World Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD and suggested that someone go to Ted Wilson and have him call a news conference to explain what Seventh-day Adventists believe. Did they? No! That golden opportunity was missed.

© God’s prophet wrote, *“If God abhors one sin above another, of which his people are guilty, it is of doing nothing in a case of emergency. Indifference or neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime; and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.”* {RH, September 30, 1873 par. 9} What do you think is the problem? Well let’s see if looking at a particular Bible story, that there may be a clue.

 © Looking at 1 Samuel 17:1 **“Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, …”** Verse 2 **“And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.**

© Verse 3 **“And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.”**

Now get the picture, God’s people are on one mountain, the Philistines are on another mountain, and there was a great valley between the two. Between God’s people and Satan’s people.

© It makes you think of a verse in Joel 3:14 **“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”**

Think of it this way. While God has His people on one side, and Satan has his people on the other side, that is people who would never decide for Christ, then in the middle you have multiplied millions of people who have not yet made a decision, in the valley of decision. Don’t we have a responsibility to share with them and get eternally life-saving information into their hands?

© 1 Samuel 17:4 **“And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.”** We are told that a cubit could be from 18” to 22” and a span could be 9.”

© That means Goliath could have been 11’ tall. That’s really tall.

© The tallest man in the United States was Robert Wadlow from Illinois who lived from February 22, 1918 – July 15, 1940.

© He was 8’-11.1” and was so tall that he drove a car from the back seat.

© 1 Samuel 17:10 Goliath spoke, **“And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”**

© Verse 11 **“When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.”**

© Now King Saul was not a little man, in fact he was about a head taller than most of his men, but he was about 4 feet shorter than Goliath. So the leadership of God’s people, the General Conference president **of that day**, was afraid.

© This continued for a time as we read in verse 16 **“And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.”** For forty days this son of Satan defied the God of heaven and there was no men of faith in the Israeli army to take him on. 40 days he ridiculed the Adventists saying “Yeah, I know your God says the 7th day, but my god says the 1st day.” “Your God says that when you die you go to the sleep of death in the grave, but my god says when we die we go to heaven or we go to hell and burn forever or we go to a place called purgatory and the family can pay money to get us out.”

© Verse 17 **“And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;”** So David’s dad wanted him to take some of momma’s home cooking to his three brothers that were in Saul’s army. David does what his dad says and in verse 20-24 it says,

© **“And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.”** verse 21 **“For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.**

© Verse22 **“And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.** Verse 23 **“And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.”**

© Verse 24 **“And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man,** (Goliath) **fled from him, and were sore afraid.”**  They were sore afraid, like Belshazzar when he saw the handwriting on the wall and his knees were knocking each other. Why were they so afraid? Wasn’t God with them? Wasn’t Jesus their true leader? If they had the faith to allow God to take care of Goliath, don’t you think he would of? But God was not in their thoughts. Only fear for personal safety was their guide.

© Verse 26 **“And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”** This was the voice of David, yet a teenager.

© Verse 28 **“And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against Goliath.** You meanI read that wrong? Oh so David’s brother’s anger was kindled against **David?”** When SDA’s pass out National Sunday Law books or Great Controversy books which expose the enemy, the beast and his mark, who is it that gets angry? Seventh-day Adventist leaders get angry. It’s against ecumenism and denominational unification. It puts the Papacy in a bad light. What will they think of us? Not what will God think of us?

© These two books are the most important pieces of literature we can distribute as faithful watchmen. Make sure you have enough National Sunday Law and The Great Controversy books ready to hand out wherever you are.

© Revelation 13:1 **“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”**

© 13:2 **“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”** Who is this beast power that inherited all the Pagan practices of heathen empires?

© It’s the home of Papal Rome of course, the Vatican, and according to the scripture we just read, Satan gave him his seat, power and great authority. The name Vatican means “Divining Serpent.”

© 13:3 **“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.** The Papacy received a deadly wound in 1798, but the wound began to heal in 1929.

© 13:4 **“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”** (who is the dragon? Rev 12:9 Satan and it is a fact that Satan is worshipped in the Vatican) Who is able to make war with this world-wide and most admired Goliath in 2016? Our church needs many more Davids today, what do you say?

David said “I’ll take on Goliath.” You know the story. They ushered him in to King Saul and Saul says here, take my armor. Of course David said no because I haven’t proven it. But you know what David had proven?

© When he was a shepherd and a lion took a sheep, he went out and smote the lion and brought the sheep back. And of course he gave God the praise for he was well aware that he could do all things through Christ which strengtheneth him.

© Then when a bear took a sheep, he went out and smote the bear and brought the sheep back. God had proven to David that He can save the sheep and David had the faith that God can save His people Israel.

© David said in 1 Samuel 17:36 **“Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.”** Don’t you love that kind of faith? Father give us that kind of faith, … the faith of Jesus.

© You know the rest of the story. David went out and got 5 smooth stones. Why 5? As the story goes Goliath had 4 other brothers and David was going to be ready.

© He slew the giant and then he cut off his head. David was one who saw the enemy that defied the God of Israel and took action.

So what is the task that God has given His remnant people here in this final generation?

© What we do know, according to Matthew 24:14, **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”** Then shall the end come. So what, according to Paul, has to happen?

© 2 Thessalonians 2:3 & 4, **“Let no man deceive you by any means:** (Paul says) **for that day shall not come,** (The second coming) **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed,** (What does revealed mean?

© According to the dictionary it means to uncover, to unveil, to disclose, to make known,So according to this scripture, his disguise will be taken from him and his true nature will be made known.

© He has to be exposed.How does the world and the leadership of our church see him now? Oh he is such a kind, humble man. He doesn’t ride in a big limo, he rides in a Fiat. He carries his own luggage. He kisses the feet of aids patients and washes the feet of inmates in prisons. But what has that got to do with TRUTH?

© Going on, 2 Thess. 2:3 & 4, “ … **the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”**

© Revelation 13:4 **“Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”** Who? Evidently not the corrupted, apostate leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, who want to be thought well of by the beast. Who then? God’s people of faith will, by presenting a “Thus saith the Lord.”

© Maranatha 266 *“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they realize that something great and decisive is about to take place--that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.”* {Mar 266.4}

© Our closing text Psalm 71:17, 18 **“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”**

© Let us Pray …