

ISAIAH 62:6-7; 10-12 **WATCHMEN, TO YOUR PLACES!**

⁶ *I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.*

¹⁰ *Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.*

¹¹ *The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.' "* ¹² *They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.*

Throughout history God has raised up human beings as his spokespersons in the world. These folks have the prophetic role of sharing God's message with the world. With the conviction that God's promises are true, their prayers incessantly call upon the Lord to consummate his promises and to give them the message for his people in that day. The Prophets were there for Israel as a nation and people. Israel itself was to be that watchman for the gentile world.

After the fulfillment of the coming of the promise Messiah, it was the Apostles who were given this role for the followers of the Way and later the Church. Like Israel, the Church has that function in the world. We who believe in the hope of the resurrection to new life are called as a community to witness to that truth by preparing ourselves and proclaiming to the world that Christ will return and with him the New Jerusalem. As the watchmen on the walls, the Church is to announce and demonstrate the purpose and direction of God through Jesus Christ. If we are to be God's watchmen, we cannot be silent; we must be constantly in prayer; we have to live as if the promise has already been fulfilled.

Dear God, make me ever faithful to your call to be vigilant in my role in the community of watchmen. Inspire me to pray continually for guidance and strength from you. Empower me to proclaim your message with your words and through my life. Protect me from deviating from the path you have placed before my feet. Amen.