

Isaiah 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights:

Analysis

'And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights.' The watchman announces his faithfulness: standing watch continually, both day and night. The 'lion' cry likely indicates urgency or identifies the speaker (lion-like voice projecting from tower). The emphasis on continuous, sustained vigilance demonstrates faithful watchman character—not casual occasional observation but dedicated constant attention. This models ministerial faithfulness: pastors must maintain constant spiritual vigilance, not sporadic attention. The phrase 'I am set in my ward' indicates assigned duty, not self-chosen activity—God stations watchmen at their posts. Faithful ministers recognize their calling as divine appointment requiring consistent, sustained fulfillment regardless of immediate results or recognition.

Historical Context

Ancient watchmen served shifts ensuring continuous coverage—cities couldn't afford gaps in surveillance. The watchman's testimony emphasizes he hasn't abandoned his post despite long duration without significant sightings. This patience and persistence characterized faithful prophets—Isaiah ministered for decades (ca. 740-700 BCE) faithfully proclaiming God's Word whether or not people heeded. Many prophecies weren't fulfilled in his lifetime, yet he remained faithful. This models perseverance in ministry—faithful regardless of visible fruit. Church history honors such faithful watchmen who maintained posts despite

opposition, indifference, or delayed vindication. The pattern continues: faithful pastors persist in biblical preaching and teaching even when culture drifts away, trusting God for ultimate vindication.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does continuous day-and-night vigilance teach about ministerial faithfulness?
2. How does recognizing calling as divine appointment ('I am set') motivate perseverance?
3. Why must faithful ministers persist despite delayed visible fruit or recognition?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרָא	אַרְיֵה	עַל	מִצְפֵּה הַ	אֲדֹנָי	אֲנֹכִי	עִמָּד
And he cried	A lion	H5921	upon the watchtower	My lord	H595	I stand
H7121	H738		H4707	H136		H5975

תָּמִיד	יוֹמָם	וְעַל	בְּשֹׁמְרוֹתַי	אֲנֹכִי	נֹצֵב	כָּל
continually	in the daytime	H5921	in my ward	H595	and I am set	H3605
H8548	H3119		H4931		H5324	

הַלֵּילוֹת:

whole nights

H3915