

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

עָמֵד אָנֹכִי אָדָנִי	מִצְפָּה הַלְּקָבָח	עַל אָרְיוֹן הַלְּקָבָח	תִּקְרַב אָנֹכִי	וְאַנְתָּךְ	וְאַנְתָּךְ	וְאַנְתָּךְ
And he cried H7121	A lion H738	H5921	upon the watchtower H4707	My lord H136	H595	I stand H5975
כָּל נִצְבָּא אָנֹכִי מִשְׁמְרַת יְהוָה	וְעַל יוֹמָם תִּמְדִיד	וְעַל יוֹמָם תִּמְדִיד	וְעַל יוֹמָם תִּמְדִיד	וְעַל יוֹמָם תִּמְדִיד	וְעַל יוֹמָם תִּמְדִיד	וְעַל יוֹמָם תִּמְדִיד
continually H8548	in the daytime H3119	H5921	in my ward H4931	H595	and I am set H3605	H5324

כָּל נִצְבָּא אָנֹכִי מִשְׁמְרַת יְהוָה
whole nights
H3915