

Isaiah 56:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Analysis

Israel's watchmen are indicted: they are 'blind' (unable to see threats), 'ignorant' (lacking knowledge), 'dumb dogs, they cannot bark' (failing to warn). They are 'sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.' These shepherds who should alert and protect instead sleep and ignore danger.

Historical Context

Prophets and priests were Israel's watchmen. This indictment describes leaders in Isaiah's day who failed their warning function, allowing judgment to approach unannounced.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What are the consequences when spiritual leaders fail to warn of danger?
2. How do you evaluate whether spiritual leaders are truly watching and warning?

Interlinear Text

צָפּוּ	עֲוְרֵי יָם	כְּלָם	לֹא	יָד עוֹ	כְּלָם	כְּלָבֵי יָם
His watchmen	are blind	H3605	H3808	they are all ignorant	H3605	dogs
H6822	H5787			H3045		H3611
אֲלֵמֵי יָם	לֹא	יֻכָּל וְ	לִנְבֹךְ	הַזֵּים	שֹׁכְבֵי יָם	אֲהִבֵּי
they are all dumb	H3808	they cannot	bark	sleeping	lying down	loving
H483		H3201	H5024	H1957	H7901	H157
לָנוּם:						
to slumber						
H5123						

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 3:2 (Parallel theme): Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

Isaiah 29:10 (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

Isaiah 58:1 (Parallel theme): Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Nahum 3:18 (Parallel theme): Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

Ezekiel 33:6 (Parallel theme): But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

Isaiah 52:8 (Parallel theme): Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

Ezekiel 13:16 (Parallel theme): To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.

Hosea 4:6 (Parallel theme): My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

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