

Q. SHOULD WE HAVE A SECURITY DEPARTMENT?  
DON'T WE LOOK TO GOD FOR PROTECTION?

A.

II Tim. 3:1

In the last days perilous times shall come.

"perilous" - Gr. khal-ep-os' = dangerous, furious, fierce, perilous.

The following verses tell why these times will be so perilous. It is because of the people. They will have no moral restraints, no personal commitment to moral and legal standards.

II Tim. 3:2-5

Do we see here a description of the American urban population?

(READ CRIME STATISTICS)

Ezek. 7:23

"For the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence."

God works through human instruments. He had good and faithful men on duty watching over Israel at all times. This duty was organized and scheduled.

I Cor. 14:40

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

The scheduled tours of duty were called "watches." Specifically designated personnel were on "watch" in shifts during the day and night.

The word "watch" in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew 'Ash-moo-raw --as a night watch, to observe, as to watch over, a look out.

The Bible is filled with references to this full-time security responsibility. These "watches" were also time coordinates by which specific events were recorded.

Let's notice some examples of this:

Ex. 14:24

" . . . In the morning watch the Lord looked . . ."

Judges 7:19

" . . . In the beginning of the middle watch . . ."

" . . . They had but newly set the watch . . ."

(a security shift just came on duty)

I Sam. 11:11

" . . . In the morning watch . . ."

Some have mistakenly believed that security personnel were only assigned to watch over Israel at night. As we've already seen that is not true. Full-time "watches" were posted day and night. This was viewed as an essential service for God's people.

Providing this service was not viewed as a negation of divine protection at all. In fact, the contrary was true.

Notice:

Neh. 4:8-9

They prayed to God and they set a watch day and night.

Neh. 7:3

The concept of God's people performing a security function.

Psalm 127:1

"Unless the Eternal builds the house, workmen build in vain; unless the Eternal guards the town, sentries are on guard in vain." (Moffatt)

In hymn #96 in our church hymnal we sing ". . . unless the Lord the city shield, the guards maintain a useless watch." What guards? The people of God, organized, trained and scheduled to provide security service for Israel.

No one knew better than these men how important reliance on God really is. This principle is well established in God's Word.

James 2:17-18

Faith without works is dead. By our works we show our faith.

Notice: vs. 20

"Do you know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"

James 2:22

By our works our faith is made perfect.

If you want to know how important it is to rely on God; if you want to know just how much faith it takes, try serving full-time, providing security for God's people - then you'll know.

Notice in all of this we are not talking about fighting and killing, but about watching, reporting, guarding and securing. This is a service responsibility, not a combat assignment.

The Bible places these "watches" (day and night) in an accepted and positive context.

Psalm 90:4

"For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday, when it is past, and like a watch in the night."

Habakkuk 2:1-2

"I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart . . ."

Psalm 63:6

"I will meditate on thee in the night watches . . ."

These security watches continued in the New Testament as well and were common knowledge to the people of God.

The word "watch" in the New Testament comes from the Greek word 'foo-lak-ay' -- a guarding, the act of guarding, the person, the place, the time as a specific division of the day or night.

Matt. 14:25

". . . About the fourth watch of the night . . ."

Notice how Jesus uses these tours of security duty in reference to His return to this earth:

Luke 12:37-38

Here Christ projects into the future prophetically to our time - the time of His return.

The responsibility to provide competent well-trained security personnel for God's people and his headquarters is in perfect conformity with the principles and precepts of the Bible.

This responsibility is even mandated in some cases for reasons of legal liability and insurance responsibility. In this context Ambassador Security is ever improving, taking advantage of information, resources and developments in the fast-paced world of security service. We also have established excellent working relations with the Pasadena Police Department and other organizations, including the Southern California Association of Campus Police and Security and the Institute of Justice of the U.S. Justice Department.

In the field of security and law enforcement it is a well established fact that the greatest deterrent to crime known is a well-ordered, high profile, uniformed presence. This is what we have in Ambassador Security.

Our officers are mature, specially selected, baptized members of the Worldwide Church of God. They are highly disciplined and are subjected to an intensive training program.

They wear a sharp looking midnight blue uniform like that worn by the L.A.P.D. This uniform, with its distinctive Ambassador Security shoulder patch, collar brass and badge makes the officers highly visible to those in need of security assistance. It also makes them highly visible to would-be criminals and other undesirables on or near headquarters property. At the same time, it makes the officer's job safer and more effective by serving as a deterrent to crime, challenges, and resistance upon contact. Though our officers carry essential equipment, they are all unarmed.

Ambassador Security officers represent God's Work at a variety of different levels. They represent Mr. Tkach, the Church, the College, the Foundation, Imperial Schools, our Publications, the telecast, etc. They must look sharp, and they do. Each officer must stand (and pass) inspection before going on duty. These officers perform an important public relations function and are often the first contact for outsiders.

Their duties include providing V.I.P. security escort for visiting dignitaries and heads of state, dealing with dissidents, patrolling headquarters property and securing offices and departmental areas. Their primary concern is for the people of headquarters which has approximately 2,300 employees and students.

Pasadena is also a Feast site with an attendance of approximately 4,000. Ambassador Security also provides all security services for the headquarters Feast site. Ambassador Security is on duty and on patrol 6 days a week, 24 hours a day.

From Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, security patrol service is provided by hundreds of church member volunteers who have received training from Ambassador Security.

The care and concern for God's people and the mission: "to protect the personnel, property, information and interests of Ambassador College and its affiliate organizations" is alive and well at headquarters today.