

***But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. (Psa 78:38)***

I've been thinking on today's topic for some time, trying to figure out how to speak to it; I want to be clear I'm not seeing some deficiency or a problem, I've just been meditating on this topic and wanted to share for further thoughts. If I don't make sense or create questions, feel free to ask later.

In our pilgrimage, we are given many tasks and behaviors to help us direct our walk through this life. One of those is to watch. Watching is one of the most frequently referenced actions we are called to in New Testament Scripture. Just take a look at how many times this exhortation appears:

*“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.” (Mat 24:42-43)*

*“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” (Mat 25:13)*

*“Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.” (Mat 26:38)*

*“And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?” (Mat 26:40)*

*“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Mat 26:41)*

*“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.” (Mar 13:33)*

*“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:” (Mar 13:34-35)*

*“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” (Mar 13:37)*

*“And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.” (Mar 14:34)*

*“And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?” (Mar 14:37)*

*“Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.” (Mar 14:38)*

*“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.” (Luk 12:37-39)*

*“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (Luk 21:36)*

*“Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Act 20:31)*

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” (1Co 16:13)*

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Eph 6:18)*

*“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;” (Col 4:2)*

*“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” (1Th 5:6)*

*“Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.” (1Th 5:10)*

*“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” (2Ti 4:5)*

*“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” (1Pe 4:7)*

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1Pe 5:8)*

*“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” (Rev 3:2)*

*“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” (Rev 3:3)*

*“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” (Rev 16:15)*

There are three words used across this collection of passages that are translated as watch

G69 agrupneō

- 1) to be sleepless, keep awake, watch
- 2) to be circumspect, attentive, ready

G3525 nēphō

- 1) to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit
- 2) to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect

G1127 grēgoreuō

- 1) to watch
- 2) metaphorically give strict attention to, be cautious, active
- 2a) to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one

You see this isn't a sitting back type of watching. We're not sitting on a deck watching the sun set over a scenic ocean view. This is an active watching. Look at these other descriptors in the definition – attentive, ready, temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.

This is why I love words so much. Consider this bright tapestry we're given here to guide us, provided by these rich, meaningful words. See what guiding principles these words provide us. While we aren't just sitting back watching without interest, there is a dispassionate approach we are supposed to take to this watchfulness. We aren't supposed to be anxious in our watching but “calm and collected in spirit”. We aren't trying to influence the things we watch outside of speaking God's words.

These descriptors are especially helpful and important when we consider what we are watching for when Christ says

*“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” (Mar 13:37)*

And of course, in the context of that verse, we know precisely what it is we're watching for – His return! All humanity should be watching for that glorious event in this way.

But watching is not this:

*“And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into*

*heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Act 1:10-11)*

We’re not supposed to be standing around looking up into the sky wondering when we’ll actually see something. Notice that the word the angel uses is “gazing”, which is not the same as watching.

G1689 emblepō

- 1) to turn one’s eyes on
- 2) look at
- 3) metaphorically to look at with the mind, to consider

See the key difference in these words. Gazing is with the eyes. Watching is more than that. You see how none of the words translated watch (in this context) are defined as a simple viewing, or in any way speak to the use of the eyes the way gazing does. That’s important.

Christ, isn’t calling us to something that is an abstract or simple observation. We have to know what we’re seeing, why we’re seeing it, what it means, what it portends and how to properly discern its importance.

What I’ve been meditating on has been this, specifically:

*“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. **But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Mat 24:36-39)*

We’ve spent a lot of time over the decades considering the ideas expressed by “*eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage*”, juxtaposing those conditions to our present generation. That’s valuable analysis, but I want to specifically consider something more explicit – what were the conditions of the world in the days of Noah? We’re given a clear marker that will show us the hour of Christ’s return draws near.

The verse isn’t saying that all they did was eat, drink, marry and give in marriage in Noah’s day as the only contrast point to look at. Those are indicators of societal normalcy. There are other markers that we can use to gauge what it is we’re supposed to watch for, the same as the companion passage in Luke points to greater details being important:

*“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed*

*them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife.” (Luk 17:26-32)*

I think it's pretty clear that Christ is drawing attention to the full state of affairs during these two generational events, encouraging those with interest to look into those details and see what conditions we can expect in the last days. The days of Noah are described like this:

*“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.” (Gen 6:11-13)*

Corrupt and filled with violence.

Ever since Charlie Kirk's murder I've had a heightened sense of the violence going on across the globe and what it is we should be taking from it. Something about that event shocked me in a way that pushed me down this path. Don't get me wrong, I don't have any affinity with Charlie Kirk. I liked the kid in some ways, but let's just get to the bottom of the only point in his life that mattered – he preached a false Christ. His Funko Pop version looks a little like Willie Nelson, with his American flag head band, 'murica 'don't tread on me' T-shirt, and one hand tied behind his back by you not accepting him as your own personal savior and taking that all critical first step in your own salvation while you wave the Stars and Stripes and loudly recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I believe evidence is strong that Mr. Kirk is in hell, though that's not in my ability to definitively declare.

That said, the stark, exceedingly violent nature of how he was killed, with the way it was rather cavalierly put in front of our eyes to witness the brutality of it, alongside the outrageous reactions to it shocked me into taking more notice of the amount of violence happening around us. I generally consider myself pretty tuned into the headlines and what's going on, but it has hit me hard lately that there's a difference between knowing something and discerning its importance. Watching requires that discernment and application in our thinking, not just knowing. It requires a level of elevation above the daily immersion in this world's morass to see things for what they are.

I data-nerded for a little bit while I was considering whether my view on violence was heightened or if it was actually on the rise. If you listen to mainstream media, their hue and cry is that crime is universally and unequivocally down, so the sending of troops into major cities like Chicago and LA to curb violence has been entirely unfounded. There is no trustworthy source here, because every think-tank, government agency and media outlet has some ideologically based interest in telling a story, not truth. So I looked at the reporting on violent crimes. There are lots of arguments to make against this method, but nerd with me a minute while I get to the point.

Month	# of articles
1/1-2/1	502
2/1-3/1	593
3/1-4/1	654
4/1-5/1	743
5/1-6/1	823
6/1-7/1	892
7/1-8/1	863
8/1-9/1	984
9/1-10/1	1521
10/1-10/30	945

Over the course of this year, there has been a steady increase across the media reporting on violence in the US. Now, you could say that this is because there are more media outlets with every Joe, Sally and Dolphin-identifying-human declaring themselves “freelance journalists” so more articles get written. I’m not trying to get into some polemic argument about this. I’m simply using a datapoint to say that word of mouth would indicate violence has risen pretty significantly this year.

Consider these other anecdotal data points:

- There have been over 300 mass shootings in 2025 in this country
- America, with its new “kill your baby at your convenience by popping a pill” mentality has abortions likely to exceed an estimated 1.5 million this year (since it’s not tracked how many have been killed by these pills it’s hard to be sure)
- The prisons are overflowing even with the reduction in drug sentences, the absolute refusal by many large cities to lock up criminals like the one who stabbed the woman in Charlotte in September, and the mass early release programs created by Covid
- It seems every gathering of more than 10 people with differing opinions ends up with a Wendy’s or a department store burning down
- Road rage and random acts of violence are on a significant rise
- Mass robberies by armies of thugs in major cities are happening every few weeks now, organized smash and grabs just taking things

- Differences of opinion now justify violent behavior in an increasing number of people's minds (see the reaction to Kirk's murder as a prime exhibit)
- War in Ukraine, the destruction of Gaza, civil war in Syria, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Sudan, gang violence in Haiti and in several regions across Africa all resulting in almost 1.5 million humans dead this year shows it is not a US issue

Extreme violence is basically all around us, and it is an easy thing to be desensitized to because it is so prevalent.

I don't believe it is just violence men perpetrate against each other that was happening in Noah's time but also violence against God. Remember, it wasn't just that the earth was filled with violence, it was also corrupted. Here's an interesting thing to know that helps us understand this corruption. The same word translated corrupted is used here

*"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to **destroy** all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die."* (Gen 6:17)

The word "destroy" is the same as "corrupted".

H7843 shâchath

a primitive root; to decay, i.e. (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively):—batter, cast off, corrupt, destroy, lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, ✕ utterly, waste(-r).

Man had destroyed every possible connection they had to God via their idolatry and disregard for His ways. We get a sense of what that looked like more specifically by examining what Noah was told when he left the ark:

*"Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."* (Gen 9:3-6)

It seems to me that these instructions are given as specific warnings against the worst of the behaviors exhibited prior to the flood. They were so invested in shedding blood as a foundational cultural element they were **consuming blood**. Murder and death were treated as holy things to openly offend God the Creator. It's almost unimaginable, but only almost in today's environment.

Are we not seeing our own society with increasing rapidity devolve into a similar state? When you combine this violence and corruption in Noah's time with the state of affairs in Sodom in the days of Lot, I believe there is a very considerable alignment to what Christ has told us the days immediately prior to His return will look like. There is an

imminence to His description that we have to take a serious look at and give credence to in our work to discern the signs of the times (Matt 16:3).

This violence toward God is what we see in our age, where cardboard Christians declare their sins to be righteous works of Christ. Everything from actual pagan idolatry to the alphabet soup group pushing childhood mutilation is justified by false teachers pushing some false Christ. The next thing we're going to see, if you haven't realized this already, is MAPS – minor attracted persons – being somehow preached into acceptance and somehow justified by Christ's words. Just presenting that makes me feel dirty, but we have lived this happening with every other perversion known to man – what's left? Declaring what true Christianity is at this hour is crucial.

This violence and corruption is no small thing, and Noah and Lot both show that it reaches a point where only the hand of God can be employed to save His people from being swallowed up by the evil.

*“And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.” (Gen 7:16)*

*“And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.” (Gen 19:16)*

The Lord shut Noah into the ark, and the angels plucked Lot out of the city – in both instances to save them from the hands of men who sought to destroy them for their testimony against and refusing to engage in the corruption of their age.

I don't know if this MAPS filth is going to be the pinnacle that fills the cup of this world's iniquity, though it is hard for me to imagine a thing more vile, but I have to admit it was difficult for me to think of a thing more vile than the state of things we saw as our eyes were opened to the filth around us thirty some years ago. The cup is filling though; we know that for sure.

Corrupt – fully corrupt is the sense – and filled with violence. That is the state we will see. We have an obligation to speak to these things and make them known. We know that the state of affairs is not yet at this point because our Master has not returned. I know it will get worse though I don't know the precise manner of it. We needn't fret or wonder about it questioningly, though, we need but trust in the sure promise Christ gave us that these things will come to pass. And watch.

*“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1Co 15:57-58)*