

## I. Introduction:

- A. We're taking a brief hiatus from reviewing our prophetic history at the GPHOP to focus on the situation currently unfolding in Israel. We will likely touch on our prophetic history for the next couple of months leading up to our 10-year anniversary on November 17 while also remaining watchful with regard to unfolding world events we must be aware of and prayerful about.

## II. The text in focus tonight:

**Mark 13:32-37** | <sup>32</sup> "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. <sup>35</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

## III. The timeless charge to watch and pray:

- A. Jesus charged His disciples to watch and pray:
1. Twice in the gospels in regard to temptation (Matthew 26:41, Mark 14:38).
  2. Once in the gospels in regard to world events culminating in His second coming (Mark 13:33).
- B. **Two ditches:**
1. **Not watching:** not paying attention to what's going on in God's redemptive plan that's unfolding in real world events.
    - **Watching** is the evidence of spiritual alertness, being awake, spiritual vibrance, etc.
  2. **Not praying:** not actually responding prayerfully to or engaging with God's redemptive plan as it unfolds in the local, national and international arenas.
    - **Praying** is the evidence of active participation in, and engagement with, what God's doing in the world today.

## IV. "Intercessory intelligence":

- A. The fact that we have the Internet, smartphones, YouTube, etc. means the world is becoming more and more accessible by the minute. We often have access to real-time information and data, and can therefore pray with very precise understanding. Presumably, access to real-time information and data will grow exponentially as technology continues to advance (artificial intelligence, etc.), Internet access spreads and devices begin to reach the most remote places on Earth.
- B. As the church, we must view these tools as a means of gaining "intercessory intelligence." We must overcome the temptation to watch, but not pray—to essentially exist as Christian bystanders who are informed but not prayerfully engaged in current events. This is a subtle but serious temptation that can and will lull many to sleep. There's a false sense of safety when we can watch things from a screen and know what's happening, but not care enough to intercede. We must engage the issues of our day as those who talk to God about what's unfolding. This way we gain His heart instead of just the opinions of other people.

## V. What are we watching and praying for?

- A. **Spiritual alertness and vibrancy.** Many Christians are asleep at a time when it's never been more important to be awake. The church has never been closer to the return of Christ. We're either watching and praying, or sleeping and slumbering.
- B. **Remaining on guard from temptation to walk away from Jesus.** The disciples had no idea they were hours away from the crucifixion. They would all desert Him at Gethsemane. Judas would betray him and eventually take his own life. Peter would deny Him three times and go through a bitter season of distress. Watching and praying is serious. I believe it's a matter of salvation.
- C. **Rightly interpret unfolding events in light of biblical revelation.** The best way to help people is to understand the Bible accurately and correctly interpret the signs of the times in light of Scripture. We will best prepare others to respond if we are paying attention. Followers of Jesus must be very committed to prayer as it's the means to know Jesus and receive clarity with regard to the intersection of biblical revelation and unfolding world events.

*Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1/a gift.*

## Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for October 20, 2023.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up any of the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the Gathering Grounds area downstairs, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We currently host evening prayer from 7-8 p.m. seven nights a week. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 7-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each week featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **General Announcements:**
  - **Central Illinois School of Prayer:** Our Fall 2023 semester began last Friday and continues next Friday. We're looking at the theme of gratitude in prayer and would love for you to join in the conversation. More information at [gphop.org/school](http://gphop.org/school).
  - **Upcoming events:** We're celebrating our 10-year anniversary of GPHOP with the Bethel School of Ministry on Friday, November 17. Make plans to be with us for a night of great joy and gratitude for what the Lord has done, is doing and will continue to do in the future!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or on the sound board, please contact us at [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org). We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org). Contact Mandy Kistner at [mandy@gphop.org](mailto:mandy@gphop.org) if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionary friends in prayer as well as be considerate of their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Nepal); **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO) **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO); **Kerusso Perhay** (Pioneer 61; Mozambique); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Bethany Global University; Bloomington, MN); **Alicia Wright** (ACTS, India); **Austin and Amy Zhu** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO).
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County, Washington.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), TikTok, Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at [derek@gphop.org](mailto:derek@gphop.org) if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray? Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org) if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to Xfinity if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for someone or something specific, please submit it to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org).
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Friday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website ([gphop.org/donate](http://gphop.org/donate)) to give electronically.
  - **10 year anniversary:** Please pray and consider supporting the GPHOP during this time!

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*