

## EZEKIEL 33:1-33 – “THE WATCHMAN AND HIS MESSAGE; THE FAIRNESS OF GOD’S JUDGMENT; FALL OF JERUSALEM; CAUSE OF JUDAH’S RUIN; HEARING AND NOT DOING”

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

### THE PROPHECY OF THE WATCHMAN : (VS. 1-33)

Prov. 14:25; Is. 52:8; 56:10; Jer. 6:17; Ez. 3:16-21;

### THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY – BLOW THE

### TRUMPET; WARN THE PEOPLE! (VS. 1-6)

Eze 33:1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

*Eze 33:2 "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,*

*Eze 33:3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people.*

*Eze 33:4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.*

*Eze 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.*

*Eze 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'*

### THE REPENTANCE NEEDED! (VS. 7-16)

Eze 33:7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

*Eze 33:8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.*

*Eze 33:9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.*

### INTERPRETATION

**Eze 33:1 Again the word of the Lord came to me,....** After the delivery of various prophecies concerning the ruin of other nations, the Ammonites, Tyrians, and Egyptians, a fresh prophecy comes from the Lord concerning the Jews:

**Eze 33:2** Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man from their territory, and set him for their watchman:

**Eze 33:3 when he sees the sword come upon the land,....** Or those that kill with the sword, as soon as he observes a body of armed men, more or less, marching towards the borders of the land with a manifest intention to enter and invade it: **he blows the trumpet, and warns the people;** warn the people by blowing the trumpet, the signal agreed on; by which they would understand that an enemy was at hand, or danger near; or warn them by word of mouth, as well as by the trumpet, where he could do it, and when it was necessary.

**Eze 33:4 Then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet, and takes no warning,....** Does not mind the notice given him; is incredulous of the danger he is in, or negligent of providing for his safety; fancies it is an alarm, and nothing else; and imagines there is no real danger, or what is a mere trifle; or, that the enemy is at a great distance, and it is time enough to provide for his defense: **if the sword come and take him away;** those that kill with the sword, come suddenly on him, and take away his life, or carry him captive: his blood shall be upon his own head; the guilt of his slaughter, the sin will be his own; it must be brought in willful murder; no blame can be laid upon any but himself; the watchman will be clear..

**Eze 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet,....** The alarm of the enemy being at hand, and so was inexcusable: **and took not warning;** which that gave him: **his blood shall be upon him;** the fault shall be imputed to himself, and not another; and he must bear it himself, and answer for it, and not the watchman: **but he that takes warning shall save his soul;** who, hearing the sound of the trumpet, prepares for his own defense, and provides for his safety, he shall save his life, and not fall into the enemies' hands.

**Eze 33:6** But if the watchman sees the sword coming, and blows not the trumpet, and the people are not warned; if the sword shall come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; signifying that the wicked will not escape punishment though the watchman is negligent: but if the watchman blows the trumpet, and then he will not obey, he will deserve double punishment, but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

**Eze 33:7** So you, O son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear the word from my mouth, which teaches that he that receives not his charge at the Lord's mouth is a spy and not a true watchman, and warn them from me.

**Eze 33:8** When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand. The watchman must answer for the blood of all that perish through his negligence.

**Eze 33:9** Blood had by this time been shed, but Ezekiel was clear.

### APPLICATION

As we have finished the judgment section against Judah/Jerusalem and against the enemies of Israel.

We come to the fourth section – Chapters 33-48

We now are going to look at the return of God's flock! "You will return-God will bring you back"!

**Chapter 33 – the Watchman** – so many things are said in this chapter that are contemporary for our day!; 34- Indictment against the Shepherds and Pastors

WHAT KIND OF A WATCHMAN ARE YOU?

ARE YOU BLOWING THE TRUMPET AND WARNING OF DANGER?

Missions – clean water, good food and medical help??? If that's all are we being watchmen? Let's turn in our Bibles to Ezekiel, chapter thirty three.

Now to give you just a little background for chapter thirty three, you need to take a quick little look back at chapter twenty four.

Here in the latter portion of chapter twenty four, the Lord told Ezekiel that his wife was going to die, but he was not to mourn for her death. He was to forbear crying, he was to go on as, as though he wasn't going through grief or sorrow. That was a sign to the people that the joy of their lives, the city of Jerusalem, was going to be taken by the Babylonians. When the news came that Jerusalem had fallen, they were not to grieve or to mourn. It was God's work of judgment because of the iniquities of Jerusalem.

So the Lord told Ezekiel in chapter **24:7**, "In that day shall your mouth be opened to them which are escaped", actually, he was, he wasn't going to be able, he wasn't to speak until the news came of the fall of Jerusalem. Now this was about two years before the fall of Jerusalem, and he was not to speak again until they received news of the fall of Jerusalem. "In that day, your mouth will be opened to those that have escaped, and you will speak, and you will no longer be mute. But you shall be a sign to them, and they shall know that I am the Lord." So in this intervening time, from **the 9th year, 10th month**, until the word came that Jerusalem had fallen, he was not to prophesy to the Jewish people. He was to be silent. God was more or less silent to them during this period of time, but then when news came, he was then to prophesy. **12<sup>th</sup> yr, 10<sup>th</sup> mo - January 8, 585BC, the fugitive arrived with the news**

Vs. 7-16 Turn (our word from the Hebrew word for repentance) - used 7X in this chapter. (2 Chronicles 7:14-

v. 8 Who are we accountable to for being a watchman?

What accountability is there? Loss of rewards? (1 Cor.

v. 9 – Notice the requirement for commitment!! ... *"warn the wicked to turn from his way!"*

Vs. 10-11 Authorized to speak for God!—"I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked!!" – "but that the wicked turn from his ..evil ways" (**1Ti 4:10**)

## EZEKIEL 33:1-33 – “THE WATCHMAN AND HIS MESSAGE; THE FAIRNESS OF GOD’S JUDGMENT; FALL OF JERUSALEM; CAUSE OF JUDAH’S RUIN; HEARING AND NOT DOING”

### OBSERVATION

*Eze 33:10 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, 'If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?'"*

*Eze 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

*Eze 33:12 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people: 'The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of his righteousness in the day that he sins.'*

*Eze 33:13 When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die.*

*Eze 33:14 Again, when I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right,*

*Eze 33:15 if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die.*

*Eze 33:16 None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.*

### GOD’S DETERMINING RULE! (VS. 17-20)

*Eze 33:17 "Yet the children of your people say, 'The way of the LORD is not fair.' But it is their way which is not fair!*

### INTERPRETATION

**Eze 33:10** Therefore you, O thou son of man, say to the house of Israel; Thus you say, If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Thus the wicked when they hear God's judgments for their sins, despair of his mercies and murmur.

**Eze 33:11** He speaks this to commend God's mercy to poor sinners, who rather is ready to pardon than to punish, as his long suffering declares. Though God in his eternal counsel appointed the death and damnation of the reprobate, yet the end of his counsel was not their death only, but chiefly his own glory. Also because he does not approve sin, therefore it is here said that he would have them turn away from it that they might live.

**Eze 33:12** But when the righteous turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked [man] doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die. That is, the false opinion that the hypocrites have of their righteousness.

**Eze 33:13** A happy life, here and hereafter; an eternal life, and not die the second death: this must be understood, should he appear a truly righteous person; one that does not trust to his own righteousness, but to the righteousness of Christ, and lives by faith on that; looking for the hope of righteousness through it, and behaving agreeably to his character:

**Eze 33:14** Again, when I say to the wicked, You shall surely die; if he turns from his sin, and does that which is lawful and right. By this he condemns them all of hypocrisy, who pretend to forsake wickedness and yet do not declare themselves such by their fruits, that is, in obeying God's commandments and by godly life.

**Eze 33:15** His neighbor's clothing, which he has taken as a pledge for money lent him; and which, according to the law, was to be restored before sunset, which wicked men did not attend unto; but when such a man is brought to a sense of his wickedness, and repentance for it, as an evidence of it he would restore the pledge:

**Eze 33:16** Imputed to him; placed to his account; charged upon him, or ever be spoke of to him, either now, or at the day of judgment, by way of accusation and complaint, or to his condemnation: he has done that which is lawful and right; has repented of his sin; looked to Christ by faith for the pardon of it; and laid hold on his righteousness for his justification; and being influenced and assisted by the grace of God, has done that which is right and good in the sight of God and man:

**Eze 33:17** Not my people"; for surely the children of God could never say what follows; and one would think that even no man could say it, after so much had been said by the Lord concerning the righteous and the wicked, and his dealings with them, which must appear to be just and right, good and gracious; and yet such were the atheism, the perverseness and peevishness of these people, they went on to say as they had done before:

### APPLICATION

**v. 12** There is no deliverance through our own righteous deeds! Romans 3:10-12; Romans 3:28; Gal. 2:16  
**v. 12b** There is no death to the wicked person who repents!

**v.13** There is no dependence on self-righteousness when sin is present

**vs. 14-16** No punishment from God when there is repentance occurring!!! "Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound!"

**v. 17** The peoples' argument – "the way of the LORD is not fair"!!

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### OBSERVATION

*Eze 33:18 When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it.*

*Eze 33:19 But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it.*

*Eze 33:20 Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not fair.' O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways."*

#### GOD’S REASON FOR JUDGING JERUSALEM (VS. 21-29)

*Eze 33:21 And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, that one who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me and said, "The city has been captured!"*

*Eze 33:22 Now the hand of the LORD had been upon me the evening before the man came who had escaped. And He had opened my mouth; so when he came to me in the morning, my mouth was opened, and I was no longer mute.*

*Eze 33:23 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:*

*Eze 33:24 "Son of man, they who inhabit those ruins in the land of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was only one, and he inherited the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession.'*

*Eze 33:25 "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You eat meat with blood, you lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood. Should you then possess the land?"*

*Eze 33:26 You rely on your sword, you commit abominations, and you defile one another's wives. Should you then possess the land?" '*

*Eze 33:27 "Say thus to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "As I live, surely those who are in the ruins shall fall by the sword, and the one who is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in the strongholds and caves shall die of the pestilence.*

*Eze 33:28 For I will make the land most desolate, her arrogant strength shall cease, and the mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that no one will pass through.*

### INTERPRETATION

*Eze 33:18* When the righteous turns from his righteousness,.... This and what is said in the following verse are clear instances of the equality, justness, and goodness of the ways of God; and are again repeated, if possible, to make it clear and plain to them that their charge and complaint were groundless;

**Eze 33:19 He shall live thereby** - “The wages of sin is death;” the “gift of God is eternal life.” It is a miserable trade by which a man cannot live; such a trade is sin.

**Eze 33:20 Yet you say, the way of the Lord is not fair,....** Still obstinately persisting in their false charges, notwithstanding plain proofs to the contrary:

**Eze 33:21** And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, when the prophet was led away captive with Jeconiah, in the tenth month, in the fifth day of the month, that one that had escaped out of Jerusalem came to me, saying, The city is captured.

**Eze 33:22** Now the hand of the LORD was upon me in the evening, before he that had escaped came; I was endued with the Spirit of prophecy, and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb. By which is signified that the ministers of God cannot give them courage and open their mouths.

**Eze 33:23** The exhortation to repentance. Ezekiel first addresses the remnant that still linger in their ancient home, and warns them against presumptuous hopes resting on false grounds; then he turns his eyes to those near him, and points out that their apparent attention to his words was illusory.

**Eze 33:24** Son of man, they who inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speak, saying, Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given to us for inheritance. Thus the wicked think themselves more worthy to enjoy God's promises than the saints of God, to whom they were made: and would bind God to be subject to them, though they would not be bound to him.

**Eze 33:25** Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: You eat with the blood, contrary to the law, and lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood: and shall you possess the land?

**Eze 33:26** You rely on your sword, as they that are ready still to shed blood, you work abomination, and you defile everyone, his neighbor's wife: and shall you possess the land?

**Eze 33:27 They that are in the ruins** - He seems to speak of those Jews who had fled to rocks, caves, and fortresses, in the mountains; whose death he predicts, partly by the sword, partly by wild beasts, and partly by famine.

**Eze 33:28** Or, "desolation" and "desolation"; one desolating judgment shall follow upon another, until it is completely desolate; it was very desolate already, through the ravages of the Chaldean army; but it should become more so, through other judgments here threatened them: **that no one will pass through**; some understand this of the temple, which was the most pompous building in the land, and in which they placed their strength and confidence: but this was destroyed already: it is rather to be interpreted of whatsoever riches, power, and glory, were yet remaining, which should be removed:

### APPLICATION

vs. 18-19 Peoples’ actions will determine the results.

v. 20 The LORD’s answer is final!

v. 21-22 Jerusalem has been destroyed! The Babylonians set fire to Jerusalem on August 14, 586BC, about five months later, January 8, 585BC, the fugitive arrived with the news. - So the Lord told Ezekiel in chapter twenty four, verse twenty seven, “In that day shall your mouth be opened to them which are escaped”, actually, he was, he wasn’t going to be able, he wasn’t to speak until the news came of the fall of Jerusalem. Now this was about two years before the fall of Jerusalem, and he was not to speak again until they received news of the fall of Jerusalem. “In that day, your mouth will be opened to those that have escaped, and you will speak, and you will no longer be mute. But you shall be a sign to them, and they shall know that I am the Lord.” So in this intervening time, from the ninth year, the tenth month, until the word came that Jerusalem had fallen, he was not to prophesy to the Jewish people. He was to be silent. God was more or less silent to them during this period of time, but then when news came, he was then to prophesy. So the prophecy now goes back to Israel. God had been silent, not speaking to Israel for a period of time, until the judgment against Jerusalem was fulfilled. Now God speaks again.

Vs. 23-28 Jerusalem’s destruction – their practices – their arrogant strength will cease!

THE NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD WILL GO TO HELL!!!

It’s important that we learn the lessons that history teaches us, because as we look at history, history is nothing more than God’s activities in the past with nations, with empires, with individuals. The principles remain, the work of God is, is the same. *“Righteousness will exalt a nation, but sin is a reproach*

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### OBSERVATION

Eze 33:29 *Then they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have made the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.”* ‘

PEOPLE’S RESPONSE TO EZEKIEL’S MESSAGE! (VS. 30-32)

Eze 33:30 *“As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, ‘Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.’*

Eze 33:31 *So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.*

Eze 33:32 *Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.*

THE RESULT! (V. 33)

Eze 33:33 *And when this comes to pass—surely it will come—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”* “Now the hand of the Lord was upon me in the evening.”

SPURGEON MORN/EVENING --Ezekiel 33:22 In the way of judgment this may be the case, and, if so, be it mine to consider the reason of such a visitation, and bear the rod and Him that hath appointed it. I am not the only one who is chastened in the night season; let me cheerfully submit to the affliction, and carefully endeavor to be profited thereby. But the hand of the Lord may also be felt in another manner, strengthening the soul and lifting the spirit upward towards eternal things. O that I may in this sense feel the Lord dealing with me! A sense of the divine presence and indwelling bears the soul towards heaven as upon the wings of eagles. At such times we are full to the brim with spiritual joy, and forget the cares and sorrows of earth; the invisible is near, and the visible loses its power over us; servant-body waits at the foot of the hill, and the master-spirit worships upon the summit in the presence of the Lord. O that a hallowed season of divine communion may be vouchsafed to me this evening! The Lord knows that I need it very greatly. My graces languish, my corruptions rage, my faith is weak, my devotion is cold; all these are reasons why His healing hand should be laid upon me. His hand can cool the heat of my burning brow, and stay the tumult of my palpitating heart. That glorious right hand which molded the world can new-create my mind; the unwearied hand which bears the earth's huge pillars up can sustain my spirit; the loving hand which encloses all the saints can cherish me; and the mighty hand which breaks in pieces the enemy can subdue my sins. Why should I not feel that hand touching me this evening? Come, my soul, address thy God with the potent plea, that Jesus' hands were pierced for thy redemption, and thou shalt surely feel that same hand upon thee which once touched Daniel and set him upon his knees that he might see visions of God.

### INTERPRETATION

Eze 33:29 **Then shall they know that I am the Lord,....** An omniscient Being, that could foresee and foretell what would come to pass; and omnipotent, able to do whatever he pleased, and true and faithful to his word; and a sovereign Lord, whose will cannot be resisted; this they should see, own, and acknowledge: **when I have made the land most desolate, because of all their abominations which they have committed:** for though he is a sovereign Lord, yet he does not execute his judgments in an arbitrary way, merely cause it is his will, but because of the abominable sins committed by men, which provoke the eyes of his glory.

Eze 33:30 As for you, son of man, the children of your people still are, in derision, talking against you by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, everyone to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that comes from the LORD.

Eze 33:31 And they come to you as the people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after their covetousness. This declares that we ought to hear God's word with such zeal and affection that we should in all points obey it, else we abuse the word to our own condemnation and make of its ministers as though they were jesters to serve men's foolish fantasies.

Eze 33:32 As a very lovely song - They admired the fine voice and correct delivery of the prophet; this was their religion, and this is the whole of the religion of thousands to the present day; for never were itching ears so multiplied as now.

Eze 33:33 When this cometh to pass - then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them - What I have predicted, (and it is even now at the doors), then they will be convinced that there was a prophet among them, by whose ministry they did not profit as they ought.

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I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do. *Refrain*

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;  
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

### APPLICATION

v.29 **Why Jerusalem's destruction was necessary - ..**  
**“because of all their abominations (idolatry, immorality)**  
**which they have committed”!!**

**vs. 30-32 How did the people respond to Ezekiel's**  
**message?.. “for they hear your words, but they do not do**  
**them!”**

**Has it found an application in your life? Are you**  
**obeying the word? Are you keeping the word of God?**

**2 Chron. 7:14-15; Ez. 33:11; Rom 9:1-3; John 17:24**

**Questions:**

**1 Are any believers not included in requirement of being a watchman? (Ez. 3:17; James 3:1) “This is to be done by the faithful preaching of the word in public, and by personal application to those whose sins are open.” (M. Henry)**

**2 How important is repentance in today's study?**

**3 Is there a difference among regret, remorse and repentance? If so what are they?**

**4 Do you think all of God's ways are fair?**

**5 Do you agree with the following? There will be a lot of evil men in heaven, whose sins have been washed and cleansed, through Jesus Christ. There will be a lot of good moral people in hell, who have trusted in their own righteousness, rather than in the provisions that God has made for us, through Jesus Christ.**

**6 Were the remnant of Jews remaining in Israel or the exiles in Babylon God's favorite people? (vs. 23-29; Jer. 24:5 – figs)**

**7 We see in today's study how the children of Israel heard the words of the LORD—Did they do them? How about our church? How about our nation? How about you?**