Ezekiel Outline

• 1-33 The wrath of the Lord GOD
  • 1-3 Revelation of God and commission of Ezekiel
  • 4-23 Messages of wrath for Jerusalem
  • 24-33 Messages of wrath during the siege of Jerusalem

• 34-48 The holiness of the Lord GOD
  • 34-39 The Restoration of Israel
  • 40-48 The restoration of the presence of the Lord GOD in Jerusalem

• 1-24 Oracles of wrath against Israel
• 25-32 Oracles of wrath against the nations
• 33-48 Oracles of consolation for Israel
  • 33-37 Regathering of Israel to the land
  • 38-39 Removal of Israel’s enemies from the land
  • 40-46 Reinstatement of true worship
  • 47-48 Redistribution of the land
Then they will know that I am the LORD

- Distribution
- Significance
Then they will know that I am the LORD
Chapter 33 Outline

• 1-6      Watchman for the people
• 7-20     Watchman application
• 21-29    Abraham and those still in the land
• 30-33    The response to Ezekiel
Watchman for the people
Ezekiel 33:1-4

1And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2“Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, ‘If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, 3and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, 4then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head.

• The watchman is put in place by the people
• The watchman is to watch and warn
• The people are to heed the watchman
Watchman application
Ezekiel 33:5-6

He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require from the watchman’s hand.

- Warnings are for protection
- The watchman has responsibilities
- The people have responsibilities
The Watchman

Sword Coming

Watchman warns
- Heed = Live
- Ignore = Death

Watchmen does not warn
- Death
- Watchman judged
Watchman application
Ezekiel 33:7-9

7“Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. 8When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will 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 from your hand. 9But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

• The people didn’t appoint Ezekiel as watchman, God did
• The warning is: turn to save your life
Watchman application
Ezekiel 33:10-11

10“Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus you have spoken, saying, “Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we are rotting away in them; how then can we survive?”’ 11Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’

• The people are actually acknowledging their sins
• God is please when the wicked turn from their ways
• Evil ways lead only to death
Watchman application
Ezekiel 33:12-13

12 And you, son of man, say to your fellow citizens, ‘The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he will not stumble because of it in the day when he turns from his wickedness; whereas a righteous man will not be able to live by his righteousness on the day when he commits sin.’

13 When I say to the righteous he will surely live, and he so trusts in his righteousness that he commits iniquity, none of his righteous deeds will be remembered; but in that same iniquity of his which he has committed he will die.

• Righteousness will not save the one who sins
• Sins will not prevent the salvation of the wicked
• The righteous also need to be warned about sin
• Words for sin
  • iniquity – activity that is crooked or wrong, offense, sin, guilt
  • iniquity – wrong, injustice
  • transgression – rebellion, revolt
  • sin – sin
• The wicked will live if they turn from iniquity
• Previous sins will not be remembered
Watchman application
Ezekiel 33:17-20

17“Yet your fellow citizens say, ‘The way of the Lord is not right,’ when it is their own way that is not right. 18 When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, then he shall die in it. 19 But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and practices justice and righteousness, he will live by them. 20 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not right.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

• It would be fair for God to punish everyone
• God will judge each according to his ways
The Righteous and the Wicked

- Righteous
  - Life
- Wicked
  - Death
Abraham and those still in the land
Ezekiel 33:21-22

21 Now in the twelfth year of our exile, on the fifth of the tenth month, the refugees from Jerusalem came to me, saying, “The city has been taken.”
22 Now the hand of the LORD had been upon me in the evening, before the refugees came. And He opened my mouth at the time they came to me in the morning; so my mouth was opened and I was no longer speechless.

• As promised, Ezekiel’s mouth is opened after the fall of Jerusalem
• Fall: July 18, 586 BC
• Refugees: January 8, 585 BC
Abraham and those still in the land
Ezekiel 33:23-26

23Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, 24“Son of man, they who live in these waste places in the land of Israel are saying, ‘Abraham was only one, yet he possessed the land; so to us who are many the land has been given as a possession.’ 25Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “You eat meat with the blood in it, lift up your eyes to your idols as you shed blood. Should you then possess the land?”’ 26You rely on your sword, you commit abominations and each of you defiles his neighbor’s wife. Should you then possess the land?”

• Reasoning
  • Abraham possessed the land
  • We who are more numerous should possess the land

• They do not do as Abraham did
  • Sins against God
  • Sins against others
Abraham and those still in the land
Ezekiel 33:27-29

27Thus you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “As I live, surely those who are in the waste places will fall by the sword, and whoever is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in the strongholds and in the caves will die of pestilence. 28I will make the land a desolation and a waste, and the pride of her power will cease; and the mountains of Israel will be desolate so that no one will pass through. 29Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I make the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations which they have committed.’”

- Waste places – sword
- Open field – beasts
- Strongholds – pestilence
The response to Ezekiel
Ezekiel 33:30-33

30 “But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, ‘Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.’ 31 They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. 32 Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them. 33 So when it comes to pass—as surely it will—then they will know that a prophet has been in their midst.”

• The people liked to listen to Ezekiel
• They only liked to hear him
• They did not take the messages to heart
Chapter 34 Outline

- 1-6 Description of the shepherds of Israel
- 7-10 Judgment on the shepherds
- 11-16 God the shepherd
- 17-22 Judgment on the flock
- 23-31 David the shepherd
Description of the shepherds of Israel
Ezekiel 34:1-4

1Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock? 3You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock. 4Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them.

• Faults of the shepherds
  • Feeding themselves
  • Clothing themselves
  • Not helping the weak or injured
  • Not bringing back the lost
  • Dominating with severity
Description of the shepherds of Israel
Ezekiel 34:5-6

5They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered. 6My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them.””

• Tasks of a shepherd
  • Protection
  • Provide food
  • Seek out the lost
Judgment on the shepherds
Ezekiel 34:7-10

7Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 8“As I live,” declares the Lord God, “surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock; 9therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 10“Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them.””

• The shepherds were appointed by God and were to watch over God’s sheep
• The bad shepherds only cared for themselves
God the shepherd
Ezekiel 34:11-13

11For thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land.

• God would intervene as shepherd
• God would do what the shepherds had failed to do
God the shepherd
Ezekiel 34:14-16

14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing ground will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down on good grazing ground and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest,” declares the Lord God. 16 “I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment.

• What God will do for the sheep
  • Seek
  • Deliver
  • Gather
  • Feed

• Types of sheep needing help
  • Lost
  • Scattered
  • Broken
  • Sick
Judgment on the flock
Ezekiel 34:17-19

17“As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I will judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and the male goats. Is it too slight a thing for you that you should feed in the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pastures? Or that you should drink of the clear waters, that you must foul the rest with your feet? 19As for My flock, they must eat what you tread down with your feet and drink what you foul with your feet!’”

• The flock also was not as they should be
• They were preventing others from eating and drinking
Judgment on the flock
Ezekiel 34:20-22

20Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them, “Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you push with side and with shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns until you have scattered them abroad, 22therefore, I will deliver My flock, and they will no longer be a prey; and I will judge between one sheep and another.
23“Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. 24And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

25“I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. 26I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing.

David the shepherd
Ezekiel 34:23-26

• The shepherds will be replaced by one shepherd, David
• God will establish a covenant of peace
David the shepherd
Ezekiel 34:27-29

27 Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

28 They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid.

29 I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

• There will be food security
• The people will be delivered from their slavery
• There will be physical security
David the shepherd
Ezekiel 34:30-31

• God will be with them
• They will be God’s people

30 Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people,” declares the Lord GOD. 31 “As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God,” declares the Lord GOD.
Summary

- All those who know God are watchmen
- The wicked and righteous both need to be warned about sin
- Our righteous acts cannot save us
- We are Gospel watchmen
- Leaders are to care more about those they lead than themselves
- We should not deny others blessings God has given us