

The Fall of Jerusalem

Lesson 14: Ezekiel 33-34

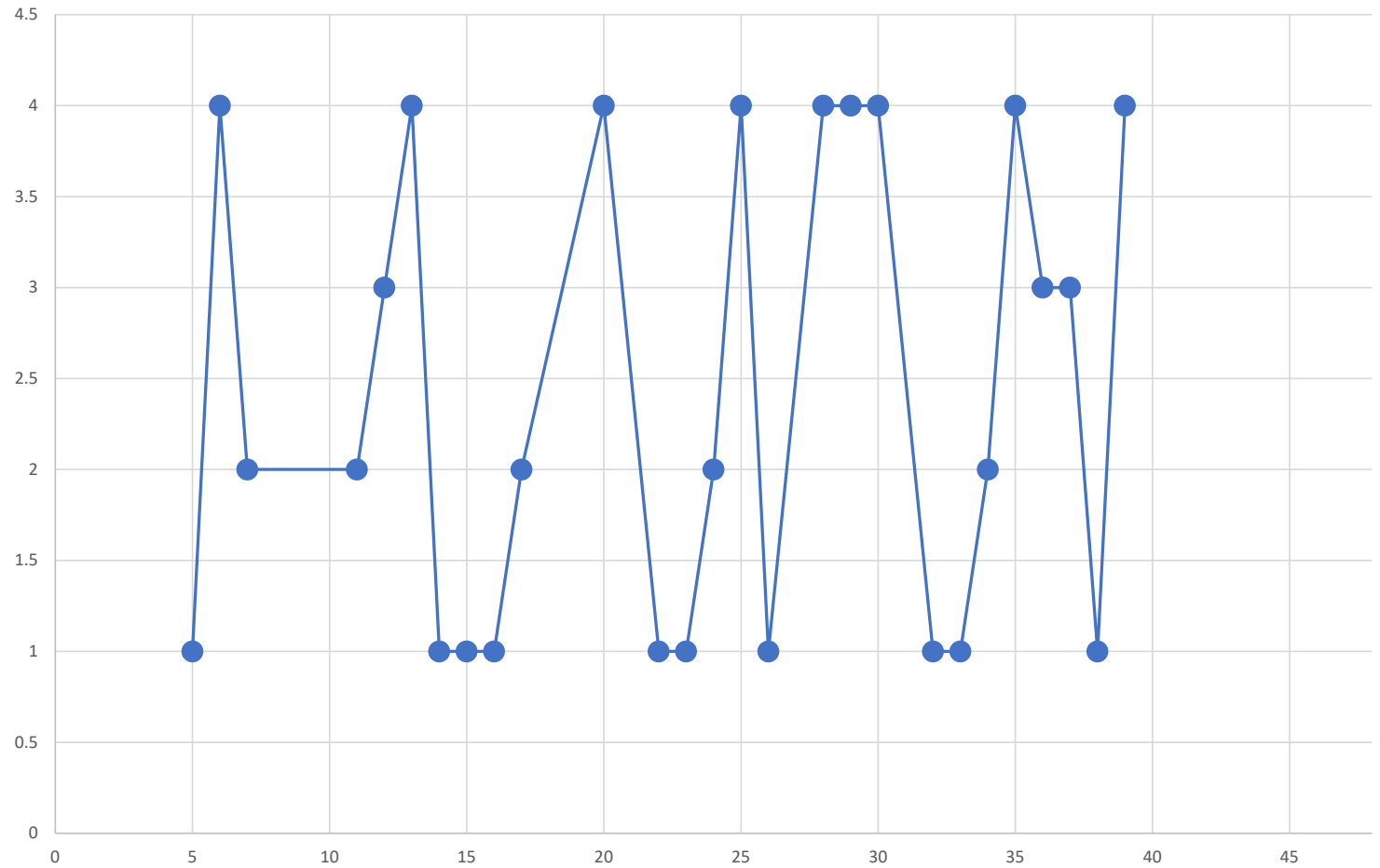
December 1, 2019

Ezekiel Outline

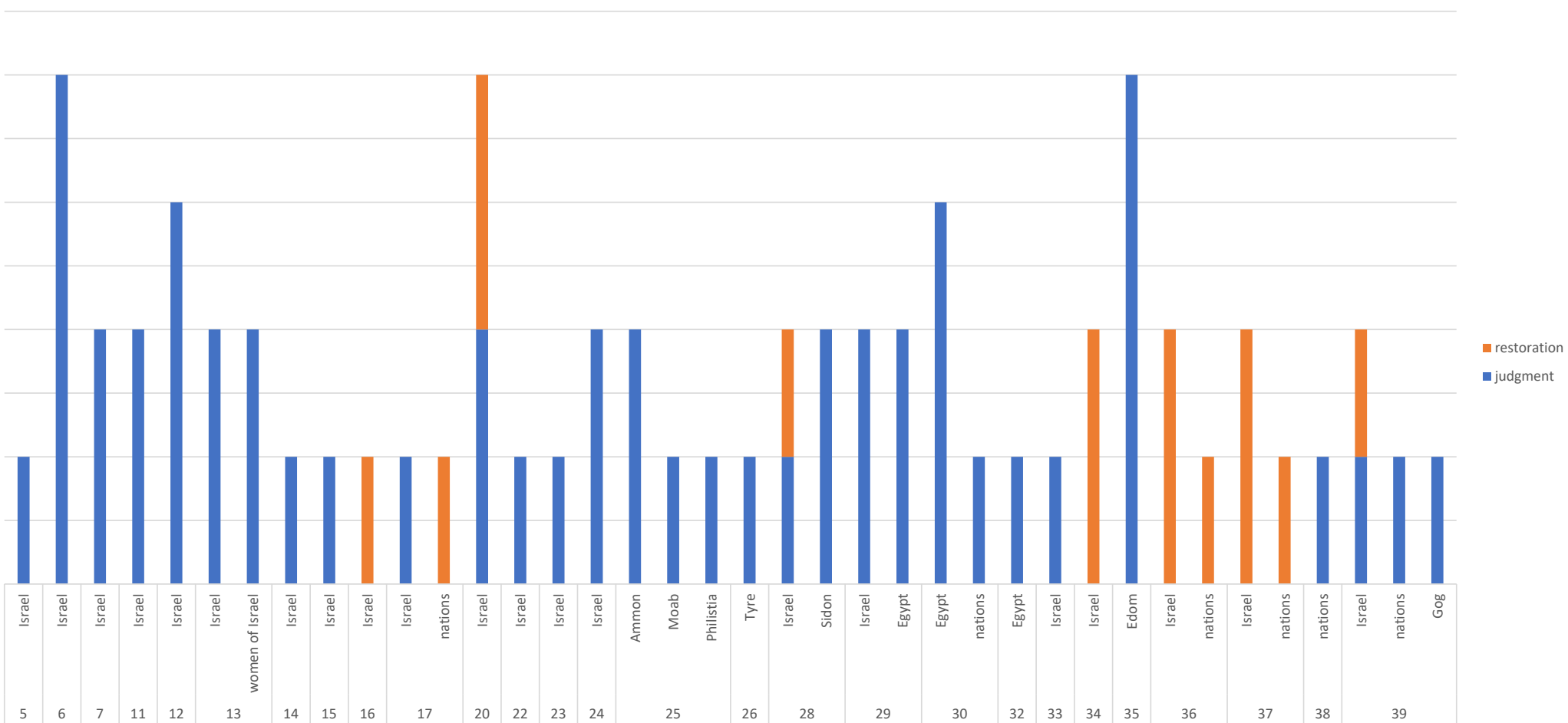
- 1-33 The wrath of the Lord GOD
 - 1-3 Revelation of God and commission of Ezekiel
 - 4-23 Messages of wrath for Jerusalem
 - 24-33 Messages of wrath during the siege of Jerusalem
- 34-48 The holiness of the Lord GOD
 - 34-39 The Restoration of Israel
 - 40-48 The restoration of the presence of the 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.

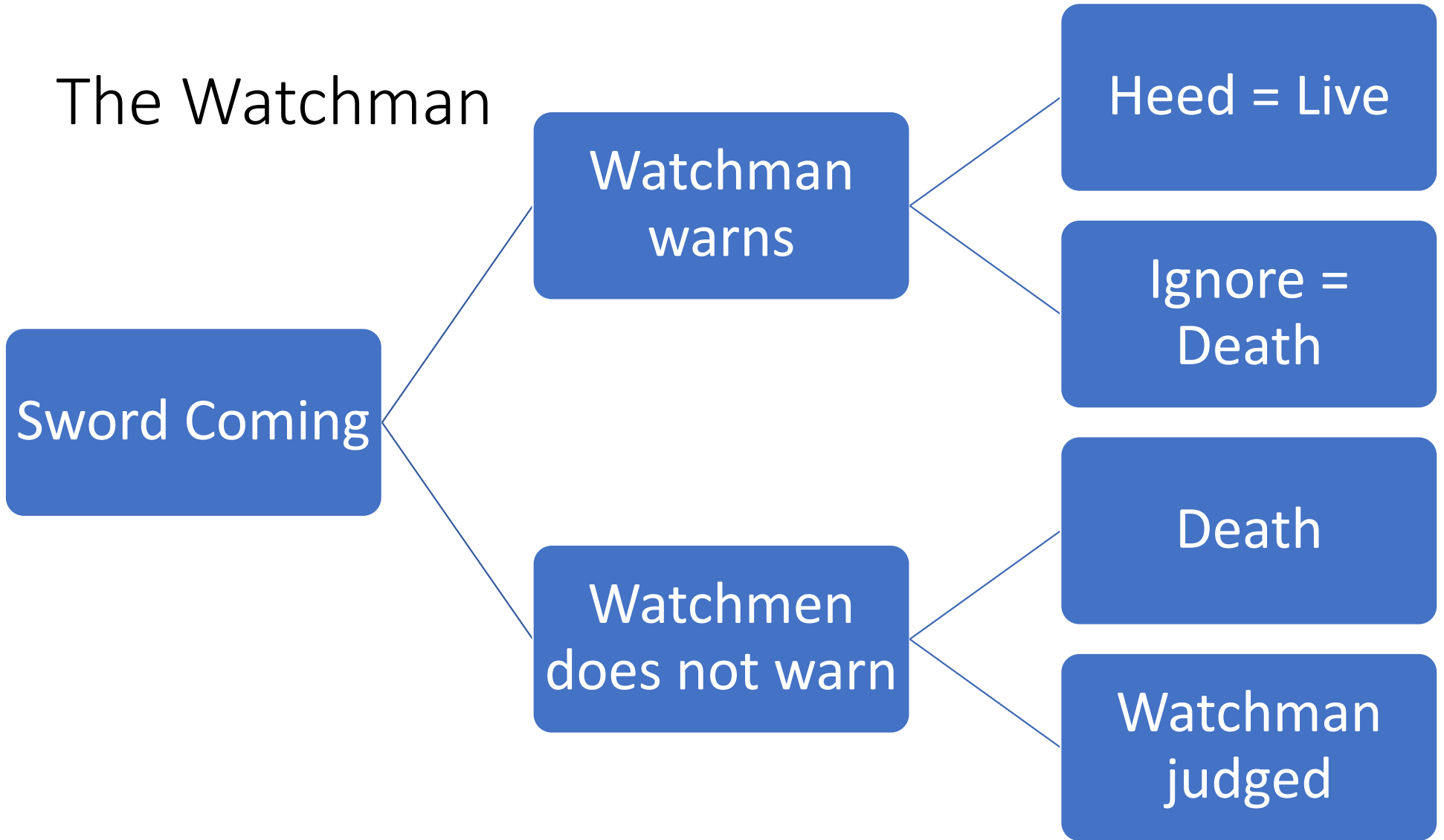
- The watchman is put in place by the people
- The watchman is to watch and warn
- The people are to heed the watchman

Watchman application Ezekiel 33:5-6

⁵He 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. ⁶But 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



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

¹²And 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.' ¹³When 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

Watchman application Ezekiel 33:14-16

¹⁴But when I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and he turns from his sin and practices justice and righteousness, ¹⁵*if* a wicked man restores a pledge, pays back what he has taken by robbery, walks by the statutes which ensure life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of his sins that he has committed will be remembered against him. He has practiced justice and righteousness; he shall surely live.

- The wicked will live if they turn from iniquity
- Previous sins will not be remembered

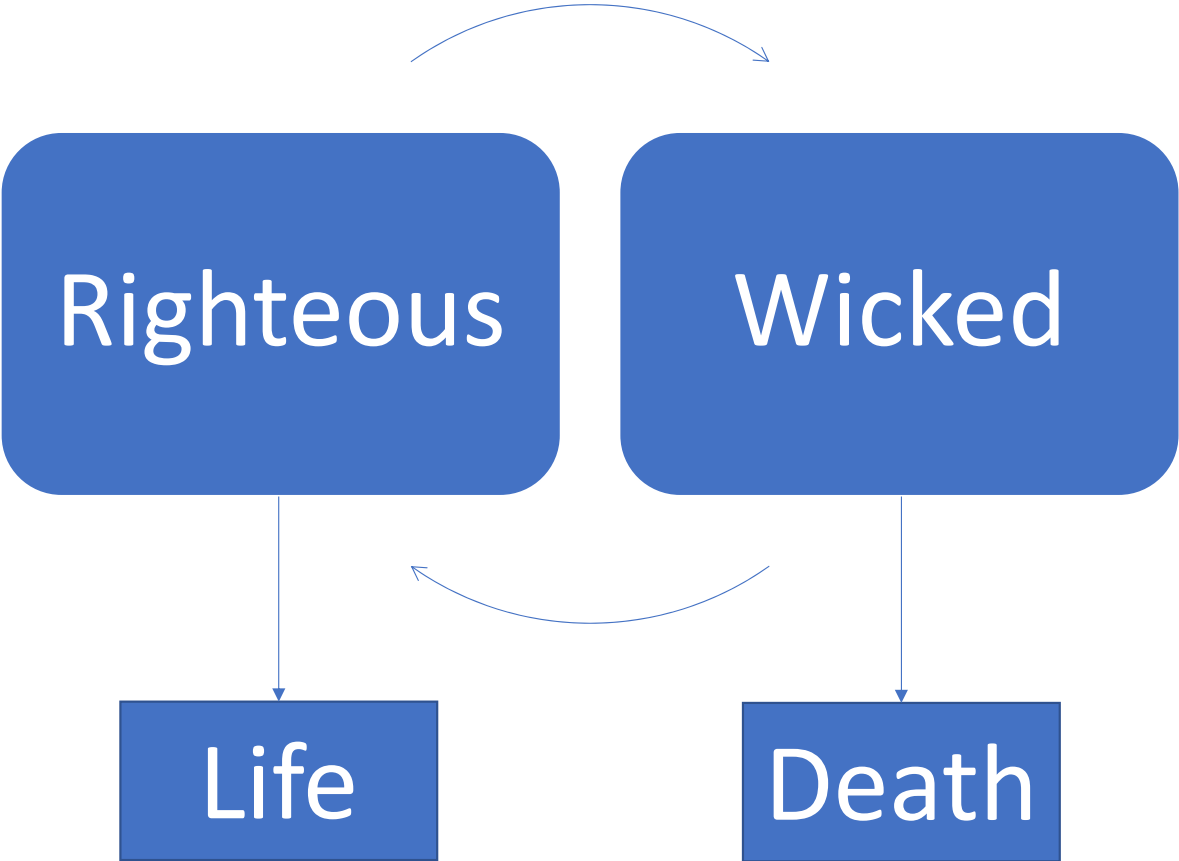
Watchman application Ezekiel 33:17-20

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

²⁰Yet 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



Abraham and those
still in the land
Ezekiel 33:21-22

²¹Now 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."

²²Now 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.’ ³¹They 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. ³²Behold, 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. ³³So 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

¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁸Is 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.

- What the bad sheep do
 - Trample the food
 - Dirty the water
 - Scatter other sheep

David the shepherd Ezekiel 34:23-26

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**.

- The shepherds will be replaced by one shepherd, David
- God will establish a covenant of peace

David the shepherd Ezekiel 34:27-29

²⁷Also 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.

²⁸They 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. ²⁹I 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

³⁰Then 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.

- God will be with them
- They will be God's people

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