**Ezekiel 33-35**

**Ezekiel 33**

**The Watchman**

* Vs. 1-10 similar to **Ezekiel 3:17-21**
* Vs. 9 delivered your soul **James 5:19-20** save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sin
* **We are called to be watchmen: Matt: 28: 19-20** teach them, baptize those who believe, and teach to observe all things. Also **Mark 16: 15-16** and **Luke 24:47** – to all nations
* Vs.11 **God takes** **no pleasure in death of the wicked**  also **Ezekiel 18:23**, **2Pet. 3:9 –** not willing that any should parish, but all come to repentance

**Fairness of God’s judgment**

* **Ezekiel 33: 14 – 30** similar to **Ezekiel 18:21 – 30**
* **The soul who sins shall die - Ezekiel 18:20**

a. vs. 13 do not trust in your own righteousness

**b.** vs. 15 wicked live if they repent, example through Jonah’s preaching and Nineveh’s repentance, God spared Nineveh from destruction

**c.** vs. 19 righteous who commit iniquity, they shall die

**d.** vs. 20Judge everyone according to his own ways

**e.** vs. 17, 20 and **Ezekiel 18:25, 29** God’s ways are fair

**Fall of Jerusalem**

* **Ezekiel 24:1-2** The king of Babylon start siege against Jerusalem
* **Ezekiel 33:21** and **Ezekiel 24:26** Jerusalem captured, one escapes Jerusalem to tell Ezekiel
* **Ezekiel 33:22** and **Ezekiel 24:27**  Ezekiel mouth no longer mute, in **Ezek.** **24:27** will be a sign to Israel
* **Ezekiel 3: 26-27** Ezekiel mute exceptwhen God opened his mouth to speak.

Ezekiel not to rebuke Israel .

* The siege of Israel lasted about 3 years. Ezekiel 24:1 – Ezekiel 33:21. So that means Ezekiel was mute except as God directed him to speak for at least 3 years plus the period of time from Ezekiel 3:26 to the start of the siege of Jerusalem
* **Cause of Judah’s fall**

**Ezekiel 33:29** - because of all their abominations

**Ezekiel 33: 27-28** – complete destruction of people and land

**Not only hear God’s word but also do God’s will**

* **Ezekiel 33:31** with their mouth they show much love but their hearts pursue their own gain
* **Matt 15:8-9** honor with their lips, hearts are far from me
* **Isaiah 29:13** in vain do they worship me, teach as doctrine the commandments of men
* **James 1:23-25** hearer and doer of the word will be blessed

**Ezekiel 34**

**Irresponsible shepherds**

* Vs.3 do not feed the flock
* Vs. 4 not strengthen the weak
* Not heal the sick
* Not bound up the broken
* Not brought back those driven away
* Not sought what was lost
* Ruled with force and cruelty

A responsible shepherd will feed the flock spiritual food, strengthen the spiritual weak, heal the spiritual sick, encourage and support those with a broken spirit, bring back those who have been driven away, seek those who have spiritually lost their way, and rule with kindness and gentleness in the spirit of love.

God has authorized shepherds to lead the flock, remember the flock belong to Christ, we are his sheep. Shepherds are not the owners of the flock, they are overseers and caretakers of the flock and should rule with that thought in mind.

**Accountability of leaders**

* **Ezekiel 22: 25-28**  wicked leaders: priests, princes, prophets
* **Ezekiel 34:5** People scattered because no shepherd
* Vs. 10 Accountability - require my flock at their hand, shepherds will no longer be in charge
* Vs. 16 God himself will deliver His flock and judge His sheep
* **Hebrews 13: 17** **Obey** those who rule over you and be **submissive**

For they **watch over your soul**

Those (shepherds/leaders) **must give account**

Rule with joy

**The grand plan of God**

* Vs 22 God save his flock
* Vs 23 Establish one shepherd over them (Christ)
* Vs 24 I will be their God
* Make a covenant of peace with them
* Vs 27 – 29 Give Israel hope for not only rescue from the Gentiles but also spiritual healing
* Vs 22-29 God gives Israel hope that after their Babylonian captivity they would return to their homeland and prosper as a nation and God would deliver them from their enemies and keep them safe. But more important God was going to restore them spiritually. There is also language that shows the coming of Christ as the one shepherd over them in vs 23, I will be their God in vs 24 and God will make a covenant of peace with them in vs 25 could possibly refer to the establishment of a New Covenant to include the establishment of the church with Christ as its head (one shepherd), that is the grand plan of God.
* **The good shepherd - John 10**
* John 10:9 Christ the door
* Vs 16 one flock, one shepherd
* Vs 28 give them eternal life
* Vs 29 God the Father gave sheep to Christ

**Ezekiel 35**

**Judgment on Mt. Seir**

* Mount Seir is a mountainous region by the Dead Sea on the East side.
* It was the land of Edom, the descendents of Essau
* Vs 5 Edomites had an ancient hatred for the Israelites going back to when Jacob tricked Essau into selling his birthright
* The Edomites assisted the Babylonians in the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. based on vs. 5 where it states concerning the Edomites “have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity came to an end .”
* Vs 6 – 9 because of Edoms acts of hatred toward Israel God was going to destroy the nation of the Edomites and their cities would remain desolate
* Vs 9 “then you shall know that I am the Lord” From their own destruction the people of Edom would know that God is sovereign and that they would be held accountable. This phrase is used several times throughout the book of Ezekiel.. Through God’s interaction with people and nations one of God’s ultimate plans was for man to know that He is God almighty and that all mankind will have to give an account to Him for their actions either blessings for good or destruction for evil.

**Summary**

**repeating phrases**

* Then you shall know that I am God
* Thus says the Lord God

**Main topics**

* The watchman, we are watchmen **Ezekiel 33:1 – 10**
* God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked **Ezekiel 33:11;** **18:23**
* Fairness of God’s judgment **Ezekiel 33:14 – 20; 18:21 – 30**
* The soul who sins shall die **Ezekiel 33:13 – 20; 18:20**
* Not only hear God’s word but also do God’s will **Ezekiel 33:31**
* Accountability of shepherds (leaders) **Ezekiel 34:3 – 10**
* The grand plan of God **Exekiel34: 22 – 29**
* All nations held accountable before God, destruction of Edom **Ezek. 35**