

Restoration & Blessing

Lesson 7

Ezekiel 33-34

The book of Ezekiel continues with the messages of the Lord to the gentile nations that had opposed Israel or rejoiced at the fall of Jerusalem. Those messages are given in chapters 25-32 and 35. Because they closely parallel the messages given by Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos & Zephaniah that were discussed in the “*Judah Alone*” study, they will not be covered here.

Ezekiel the Watchman - Ezekiel 33:1-20

1. Ezekiel reminded the exiles that the Lord had made him watchman for the house of Israel (Ezekiel 3:17). It is the watchman who is responsible to sound the warning but it is the responsibility of each individual to listen and heed the warning. He explained that if someone does not listen and obey, then he would die because he did not believe the warning. Using the first part of Ezekiel 33, verse 11, how did Ezekiel say the Lord felt about this?

2. What did the people seem to have finally realized? (Ezekiel 33:10)

3. The Lord said that He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. What would He rather see? (Ezekiel 33:11)

4. But the people did not seem to “*get it.*” They thought that if someone was believed to be righteous in the past, because of their past righteousness, that person was sure to be saved. They believed the opposite was also true, if a person was considered wicked, then there was no hope for survival. What does he point out with that faulty thinking? (Ezekiel 33:12-16)

5. After Ezekiel explained the Lord’s perspective on this, the people reacted by saying, “*The way of the Lord is not just*” – or in other words “*That isn’t fair!*” How did he answer their complaint? (Ezekiel 33:17 & 20)

The Fall of Jerusalem - Ezekiel 33:21-33

6. In the year 586 B.C., just as Ezekiel had prophesied three years earlier, Jerusalem fell to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. How did the exiles receive the news that Jerusalem had fallen? (Ezekiel 33:21)

7. It had been three years since Ezekiel's beloved wife had died and he was commanded not to speak. Review how long Ezekiel's silence was to last and why he was to remain silent. (Ezekiel 24:26 & 27)

8. How was that fulfilled? (Ezekiel 33:22)
 - Please comment on the answer.

9. Once Ezekiel was allowed to speak freely again, and the prophecy regarding the fall of Jerusalem had been fulfilled, how did these changes affect the people? (Ezekiel 33:30)

10. Finally it looked as if the people recognized Ezekiel as the Lord's prophet and now they actually wanted to hear the Lord's messages. What does the Lord say about these people? (Ezekiel 33:31, 32)

Think About It!

These people gave the appearance of love and devotion to the Lord but their hearts were not in it. They were more concerned about their own comfort and personal wealth than obedience to the Lord. Today we are not so very different from the people in this story. How are you doing in this area? Do you hunger for the Lord's words as if they were a beautiful love song but then walk away and follow the cares of this world? Or, do you put those words into practice making your relationship with the Lord a priority in your life? It certainly is something to think about!

11. What did the Lord say would be the final reality? (Ezekiel 33:33)

True & False Shepherds - Ezekiel 34

12. The Bible often uses the picture of a shepherd to depict Israel's kings. This was an image that everyone (rich, poor, young or old) knew, understood and could relate to. As the nation's shepherd, the king was responsible for protecting and caring for the sheep (the people of Israel). What was Ezekiel to say regarding the shepherds of Israel? (Ezekiel 34:1-3)

13. Using verse 4, make a list of what they did and did not do.

They did not:	But they did:

14. What was the outcome for the sheep with this type of shepherd? (Ezekiel 34:5 & 6)

15. The Lord stated the charges against these shepherds in verse 7 -9, then from verse 10:

- What did the Lord say and do about these false shepherds?

- What did He say He would do for the flock?

16. How was this sentence carried out against the last four shepherds?

Name of Shepherd	Refernce	Result of God's Judgment
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23:33	
Jehoiakim	2 Chronicles 36: 5 & 6	
Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24:10 & 15	
Zedekiah	2 Kings 25:5-7	

17. "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them." As the good shepherd, what does the Lord say He will do?

- 34:12a I will:

- 34:12b I will:

- 34:13a I will:

- 34:13b: I will:

- 34:14 I will:

- 34:15 I will:

- 34:16 I will:

18. In verse 17 He added another "I will." "The Sovereign Lord says, I will judge between one sheep and another and between rams and goats." What was going on among the sheep? (Ezekiel 34:18-22)

19. How did the Lord say this judgment would be accomplished? (Ezekiel 34:23, 24)
20. What did the Lord say He would also do?
- 34:25 I will:

 - 34:26a I will:

 - 34:26b I will:

 - 34:29 I will:

When that happens, *“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 Sovereign Lord.”* (Ezekiel 34: 30)

21. This chapter concludes with a declarative statement of how the Lord viewed Israel. What did He declare? (Ezekiel 34:31)
22. Do you think He views Israel the same way today?
- Why or why not?