

My notes on Ezekiel Chapter 33

Keep in mind the covenant that Israel made with God in Ex 19:1-9

God is keeping it verbatim Lev 26:39-42. He has fulfilled all the curses He said in Deut 28:28-68.

vv 1-6

take note

- God is sending the sword
- The people have elected the watchman
- The implied premise, the watchman sees the coming sword and always flees and saves his own life.

Situations and results (with parallels in other verses)

- A man is warned but ignores the coming sword. He dies because of his own foolishness (his blood is on his own head). v4
 - See end of v11, Why will you die (those who refuse to turn)
- A man is warned and takes heed and flees. He will save his life. v5b
 - See middle of v11, they turn from their ways and live
- The watchman lives and is innocent.
 - See v9, you do warn the wicked...but you will have saved yourself.
- A man is **not** warned and he dies. (since God sent the sword) The man is killed because of his sins. v6a
 - See v8, you do not speak out...the wicked man will die for his sin
- The watchman lives but is guilty of the sin of failing to warn the man. v6b
 - See end of v8, I will hold you accountable for his blood.

vv7-9

This is almost word for word what God told Ezekiel in 3:16-19

- God has made Ezekiel watchman for the house of Israel (33:7a, 3:17a)
- Hear the word of the Lord and warn them (v33:7b, 3:17b)
- When God speaks against the wicked and the watchman fails to warn them, the watchman will held accountable for the wicked mans blood (33:8, 3:18)
- When watchman warns the wicked but the wicked ignore, the watchman will be saved (33:9, 3:19)

Obviously Ezekiel has been giving the warnings to the exiles. Perhaps God is reminding Ezekiel this because the last of Israel has just fallen in Jerusalem. And God has a new ministry for Ezekiel. That of guiding and encouraging the exiles as they finally realize that Israel has fallen and their exile is for the rest of their life time.

v10a

God quotes what the exiles are saying to Him

- Our offenses and sins are weighing us down and we are wasting away because of them
- **Wow**, this is word for word what God told their forefathers in the desert what would happen if they broke the covenant (see Lev 26:39, this is almost a 1000 years earlier [exodus was 1446_{BC} to 1406_{BC}, and the fall of Jerusalem was 586_{BC}])

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vv10b-11

the people ask God how can we live and God replies

the people:

How then can we live?

God:

Takes no pleasure in punishing the wicked

Takes pleasure in the wicked turning from their wickedness

He repeats the verb **turn** 3 times in a row (almost pleading with them)

Turn from their ways and live

Turn!

Turn from your evil ways!

Why will you die, O house of Israel?

vv12-20

God points out that sin will be punished. He also points out that turning from sin brings forgiveness. There are many parallels of this in the New Testament.

- If a righteous man sins, his righteous deeds are not remembered, but is guilty of sin (James 2:10, Matt 5:19)
- If a wicked man turns from his sin and does what is just and right...he will not die (Zacchaeus in Luke 19:8, 1 John 2, 2 Pet 3:9)
- v16 is wonderful. We are shown here that when we repent, our former sins are not remembered!
- We are told in 1 John 2 that if we sin, we have One who speaks to the Father in our defense (Amen). John also points out that we need to get back up and continue to do good. This lines up well with what God is saying through Ezekiel. Also see 2 Cor 3:6
- God points out another specific sin. See Ezekiel 18:1-32 when God calls out many other sins.
- The exiles say that the Lord is not just. They are so far from the truth. God is trying to show them that He wants to give them Grace.
- God will judge each person according to his own ways. (similar to Ezek 18:19-32)

There seems to be parallels in Ezekiel and our time

- They were warned centuries before
 - Lev 26:39 (about 1000 years earlier)
 - Book of Revelation (given about 2000 years earlier)
- The warnings were fulfilled verbatim
- The tribulation will be fulfilled verbatim
- Ezekiel was called to be a watchman for the house of Israel
- Christ called us to be watchmen to the lost
- Israel will be restored
- God's kingdom will come after the tribulation

My notes on Ezekiel Chapter 33

2nd half of chapter 33

Ezekiel tells us the date for the 2nd half of chapter 33, Jan 8, 585^{BC} almost 5 months after the fall of Jerusalem Aug 14, 586^{BC}. (NIV study notes)

A man who escaped from Jerusalem's fall brings word to Ezekiel. Foretold by God in Ezekiel 24:26, possibly 3 years earlier (if the events of the 2nd half of chapter 24 occurred in the same time as the 1st half of chapter 24)

We are told that the night before the messenger arrived that God opened Ezekiel's mouth. We were told in Ezek 3:26-27 that God had closed his mouth and could only speak when God gave him something to say to the people. That would last for about 7 years. We were also told in Ezek 24:27 that this would happen when the messenger was to come. Thus 4 events are fulfilled: Jerusalem falls, Ezekiel's mouth was shut, Ezekiel's mouth is opened, and a messenger brings word of Jerusalem's fall.

God gives word about the remnant still in Israel.

- The remnant claims that even Abraham was able to live in the land alone.
- God points out 3 sins. Then asks: should you then possess the land?
- God points out 3 more sins. And again asks: should you then possess the land?
- God then gives them the answer:
 - Those left in the ruins will fall by the sword
 - Lev 26:25 (I will bring the sword upon you)
 - Those in the country I will give to wild animals
 - Lev 26:22 (I will send wild animals against you)
 - Those in strongholds and caves will die of a plague
 - Lev 26:27 (I will send a plague among you)
 - These were choices given to David after sinning and counting the people (1 Chron 21:12)
 - These were prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer 14:12; 21:7-9; 24:10; 27:9, 13; 29:17, 18; 32:24, 36; 34:17; 38:2; 42:17, 22; 44:13) and Ezekiel (Ezek 5:12, 17; 6:11, 12; 7:15; 12:16; 14:21)

God tells Ezekiel what the exiles are doing

- Gossiping by the walls and at the doors
- They come and listen to Ezekiel's words but do not put them into practice
- Mouths express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain
- They think Ezekiel is nothing more than one who sings love songs and plays an instrument
- For they hear your words but do not put them into practice

God wraps it up by telling him that the people will know a prophet has been among them when all this comes true. In Deut 18:22 God tells the people that a true prophet's prophecies will take place as has Ezekiel's.