

Ezekiel
Chapters 33-34

Chapter 33 NKJV

“The entire prophetic theme now changes its focus from foreign nations back to ISRAEL, the people of God, speaking again of the importance of a watchman to warn the people. Here, Ezekiel is informed that he has been appointed as the chief watchman to warn the people. He is to issue warnings and he was instructed by God not to resist speaking these dreadful warnings, or the blood of the people will be required at his hands.

God never has pleasure in the death of the wicked: He has pleasure when the wicked repent! [See also: Ezekiel 18:19-21] Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1282

1 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, 3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.’

7 “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall 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 at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

10 “Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: ‘Thus you say, “If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?” ’ 11 Say to them: ‘**As I live,**’ says the Lord God, **‘I have no pleasure in the**

death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?

12 “Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people: ‘The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of his righteousness in the day that he sins.’ 13 When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die. 14 Again, when I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, 15 if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 16 None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

17 “Yet the children of your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ But it is their way which is not fair! **18 When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it. 19 But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it.** 20 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways.”

21 And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, that one who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me and said, “*The city has been captured!*”

22 Now the hand of the Lord had been upon me the evening before the man came who had escaped. And He had opened my mouth; so when he came to me in the morning, my mouth was opened, and I was no longer mute.

“The time of this verse was a year and a half Jerusalem was taken. A messenger from Jerusalem had escaped and traveled literally hundreds of miles through hostile countries to bring the news that Jerusalem was smitten and now in ruins. Apparently, the day before the messenger’s arrival, Ezekiel understood by spiritual revelation that the city was fallen and that he was now free to speak to his fellow captives in captivity.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1282

23 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 24 “Son of man, they who inhabit those ruins in the land of Israel are saying, ‘Abraham was only one, and he inherited the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession.’

25 “Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You eat meat with blood, you lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood. Should you then possess the land? 26 You rely on your sword, you commit abominations, and you defile one another’s wives. Should you then possess the land?” ’

“The Jews who were believing God for deliverance from Nebuchadnezzar compared themselves to Abraham, saying that one man inherited the land and that they were many. However, the big difference was that Abraham was a righteous and pure man, but these descendants were filled with idolatry; they shed blood and they ate meat with blood, which was forbidden by the Law of Moses. There is no comparing Abraham with these sinful Hebrews. Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1283

27 “Say thus to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “As I live, surely those who are in the ruins shall fall by the sword, and the one who is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in the strongholds and caves shall die of the pestilence.

“The rugged mountains in Judea are covered with thousands of caves stretching from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea and from the north to the south, along the western shore of the sea. Commonly, when enemy soldiers invaded towns and cities, the inhabitants of those places fled their communities and moved into caves. This is what Christ meant when He warned that when the inhabitants of Jerusalem saw the city surrounded by armies, they should ‘flee unto the mountains’ [Matthew 24:16]. The famine would be so severe that those in the caves would die from pestilence.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1283

28 For I will make the land most desolate, her arrogant strength shall cease, and the mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that no one will pass through. 29 ***Then they shall know that I am the Lord***, when I have made the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.” ’

30 “As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, ‘Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.’ 31 ***So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.*** 32 Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. 33 And when this comes to pass—surely it will come—**then they will know that a prophet has been among them.**”

“Ezekiel had been warning the Jews in captivity in Chaldea that the judgement of God was coming to the city. However, many people rejected his predictions and now they would see that the Lord had spoken and brought His word to pass.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1283

Chapter 34 NKJV

1 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, **2 “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel,** prophesy and say to them, “Thus says the Lord God to the shepherds: **“Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered because there was no shepherd;** and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. **6 My sheep** wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, **My flock** was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them.”

7 Therefore, **you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:** 8 “As I live,” says the Lord God, “surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock”— 9 therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the Lord! 10 Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.”

11 For thus says the Lord God: **“Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,” says the Lord God. 16 “I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind**

up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.”

“Here God rebukes the careless, lazy shepherds who have used, abused, and mistreated the flock (ISRAEL) for their own personal benefit and gain. God promises He will search out HIS FLOCK from the nations where they are scattered and bring them back to Israel to settle the land in the future, feeding them by the rivers and upon the mountains.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1284

17 ‘And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats. 18 Is it too little for you to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture—and to have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet? 19 And as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet.”

20 Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: **“Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep.** 21 Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, **22 therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.**

“This reference to King David being the future King of Israel refers to the millennial reign when David will sit upon the throne of Jerusalem along with the Messiah-King, Jesus Christ. David is mentioned as a future prince-king/shepherd two other times in Ezekiel [See: 37:24-25] Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1284.

25 **“I will make a covenant of peace with them,** and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

“This **covenant of peace** will be initiated during the thousand years of Christ’s rule on earth from Jerusalem. Isaiah writes, *“And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up swords against nation, neither shall they learn of war anymore.”* [Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3] Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1284

26 I will make them and the places all around **My hill** a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. 27 Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and **they shall know that I am the Lord**, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid. 29 I will raise up for them a **garden [plant KJV] of renown**, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore. 30 **Thus they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people,**” says the Lord God.’ 31 **“You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God,”** says the Lord God.

“The plant of renown alludes to the Messiah, who is called the ‘stem of Jesse’ [Isaiah 11:1] and the ‘root out of dry ground’ who will grow up as a ‘tender plant’ [Isaiah 53:2] and will be ‘planted in Israel and whose kingdom will blossom in the millennial reign.’” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1285.

Also see: Isa 4:2; Isa 11:1-6; Isa 53:2; Jer 23:5; Jer 33:15; Zec 3:8; Zec 6:12; Psa 72:17; Isa 9:6.