

God's Watchman

Ezekiel 33:1-20

1

Outline of the Book of Ezekiel

- I. **Judgment on Jerusalem** (1-24)
 - A. Call of the prophet (1-3)
 - B. A Disobedient nation (4-7)
 - C. Glory departs (8-11)
 - D. Disciplined nation (12-24)
- II **Judgment on the Gentile Nations** (25-32)
- III. **Restoration of God's People** (33-48)
 - A. Return to their land (33-36)
 - B. New life and unity (37)
 - C. Protected from their enemies (38-39)
 - D. Worship the Lord acceptably (40-48)

-Outline adapted from Baxter & Weirsbe

2

Outline of Chapter 33

1. Ezekiel's role and responsibility as a prophet (33)
 - a. Role as a watchman (33:1-22)
 - (1) Watchman must warn or else he is responsible (verses 1-9)
 - (2) God wants none to die unsaved, but he judges each man according to his works (verses 10-20)
 - (3) Word reaches Babylon that Jerusalem is destroyed (verses 21-22)
 - b. Wrong attitude of the remnant left in Judah (33:23-29)
 - c. Wrong attitude of the exiles in Babylon (33:30-33)
2. The Shepherds of God's people (34)
3. The destiny of Edom – a perpetual desolation (35:1-15)

-Outline adapted from Robert Harikrider

3

An Individual Responsibility

A. We often blame others for our sin

1. Genesis 3:12 – Man blamed the woman
2. Genesis 3:13 – Woman blamed Satan
3. Luke 15:29 – Elder son blamed the father
4. May use another's sin as an excuse for ours
 - a. "If you had not ... I would not have ..."
 - b. "If he had only ... I would never have..."
 - c. "The reason I don't ... is because my (wife/husband) ..."

4

An Individual Responsibility

B. We must make application to self

1. Easy to see how "he" / "she" needed that sermon
2. Take a look at self (II Corinthians 13:5)
 - a. "That applies to me"
 - b. "That's where I have fallen short"
 - c. "I have sinned" (Luke 15:21)

5

An Individual Responsibility

C. Some things we must do for ourselves – no one can do it for us

1. Worship (John 4:24)
2. Give (I Corinthians 16:1-2)
3. Study (Acts 17:11; II Timothy 2:15)
4. Sing (Colossians 3:16)
5. Pray (I Thessalonians 5:17)

6

The Need For A Watchman

To Warn About:

- A. Sin (James 1:13-15; Romans 6:23)
- B. Temporal consequences (Proverbs 13:15)
- C. Judgment (II Corinthians 5:10-11)
- D. Hell (Matthew 25:41)
- E. Dangers (Acts 20:29-31)
- F. Where things could lead (Exodus 34:12)

7

The Reason For God's Warnings

God cares and wants us to be saved

A. God does not want any to be lost

1. I Timothy 2:4 – “[God] who desires all people to be saved ...”
2. II Peter 3:9 – “not wishing that any should perish”

B. God's grace teaches us

1. Titus 2:11-12 – “training us to renounce...”
2. Grace = His favor, love, kindness

8

The Reason For God's Warnings

God cares and wants us to be saved

C. Every plea, rebuke, warning, correction is because God cares and wants us to be saved

D. Misconception: “I don't need to be preached to – I need love!”

1. God sent a watchman because he loved them
2. Revelation 3:19 – “Those whom I love, I reprove ...”

9

If We Change ... The Past Doesn't Matter

A. We often live in the past

1. We dwell on our past – of what we were
2. We grieve over our past – of what we've done
3. cf. Ezekiel 33:12:13 – “none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered”

10

If We Change ... The Past Doesn't Matter

B. If we change we can overcome a lifetime of sin

1. Doesn't matter what or how much sin
2. God promises to forgive those who repent (Jeremiah 31:31-34; I John 1:5-10)
3. Eleventh hour workers received the same wage (Matthew 20:9-16)
4. The Corinthians overcame (I Corinthians 6:9-11)

11

If We Change ... The Past Doesn't Matter

C. Unfortunately, we can throw away a lifetime of righteousness

1. Doesn't matter how long one was faithful
2. Christians can change (Galatians 5:4)
3. Sin condemns the soul (James 5:19-20)

12

Repentance Requires Change

A. To repent is to turn from evil

1. Thayer: "to change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins"
2. W. E. Vine says "this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God"

13

Repentance Requires Change

B. Cease the sin

1. Matthew 12:41 – "... they repented at the preaching of Jonah"
2. Jonah 3:6-10 – "... they turned from their evil way"

C. If there is no change, there is no repentance

1. Revelation 9:20-21 – "nor did they repent ..."

14

Repentance Requires Change

D. Far more than:

1. "Reporting" what you've done
2. Being sorry about the sin
3. Mere change, without being sorry

15

We Are Accountable For Self

A. We are each judged according to our own actions

1. II Corinthians 5:10 – "so that each one may receive ..."
2. Romans 14:12 – "... each of us will give an account of himself to God"

16

Things That Do Not Cover Sin

A. Who you are

1. cf. Ezekiel 33:23-29 – "the land is surely given us to possess"

B. Good talk

1. cf. Ezekiel 33:30-33 – "... they hear what you say, but they will not do it"

C. Merely listening to the truth

1. See again Ezekiel 33:30-33 – "... hear what the word is that comes from the Lord"

17

God's Watchman

1. Individual Responsibility (verses 4-5)
2. The Need For A Watchman (verse 7)
3. The Reason For God's Warnings (verse 11)
4. If We Change ... The Past Doesn't Matter (verses 12ff)
5. Repentance Requires Change (verses 14-15)
6. We Are Accountable For Self (verse 20)
7. Things That Do Not Cover Sin (verses 23-33)

18

What God Wants You To Do

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

19

What God Wants You To Do

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

20

What God Wants You To Do

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”

21