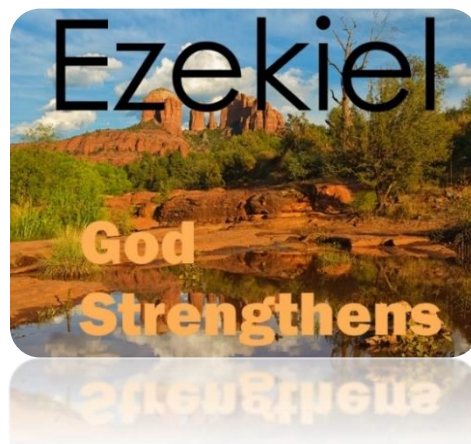


EZEKIEL 33 vs 1

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An outline of Ezekiel: **Chapters 1 – 24**: The Lord's prophecies against **Israel** and **Judah**; (1) **Chapter 25**: prophecies against 4 neighbors: Ammon, Moab, Edom – east of Jordan, Philistia – the western coastline; (3) **Chapter 26 – 28**: judgment on Tyre in Lebanon, its overthrow; a funeral song; its leader's downfall, and a funeral song for its real king, lastly judgment on Sidon. (4) **Chapter 29 – 32**: judgment on Egypt; description of judgment; comparison to Assyria; a funeral song over Egypt. **Chapter 33**: appointing watchmen on the wall; **Chapter 34**: firing all the shepherds / the hired pastors; the LORD will do the job. (2) **Chapter 35 - 36**: judgment begins at the household of God; but extends to the irksome neighbors; God always looks for love freely given. Much of this – but not all was local history 2500 years ago.



Plan B: The last days: Trumpets, Afflicting souls, and Tents; 3 days that are still on the Lord's calendar. **Chapter 37** the great awakening of Joseph (led by **Ephraim** and Manasseh) when **they** along with **Judah** become one; until Jesus Messiah returns to rule with a rod of iron. **Armageddon**: **Chapter 38** Gog and Magog against Judah and Manasseh; **Chapter 39** Gog and Magog against **Ephraim** – the battle is over.

Plan A: the first days: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Pentecost. Prophet Ezekiel says: **But back to reality**: **Chapters 40 – 46**: when you return to the land after 70 years in Babylon, rebuild the temple; include the 30 guardrooms. **Chapters 47– 48**: when Messiah comes to reign; He will get the water to flow and clean up Jerusalem; notice there are no more bloody sacrifices.

Ezekiel had returned to the people of God, having spoken to the neighboring nations; and now he comes to them as a watchman on the wall, and had received a charge against them for which he was held responsible to let them know upon what terms they stood before God – MH.

¹ **And the word of the LORD came to me** / it was the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and all the others *sent by God*, who actually learned more than anyone else... the humbling lesson that Moses repeatedly taught them as they were to enter and possess the land pledged to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... *that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*... **the prophet knew what God said**, when the Lord spoke, they never fumbled for a pen or pencil, they didn't need to reboot their iPod, they never said, Uh, Could You speak up?, I didn't get that... Could You repeat that? Could You come back another time? I'm busy... NO! they stood at attention, day or night, rain or shine; more than anyone else, they stood with their ears open, and their mouth shut... that they might keep and do and teach all that He taught them.

the word of the LORD came to me, saying, / News had arrived to Ezekiel that Jerusalem had been taken captive by Babylon. Matthew Henry points out that if God had completely abandoned His people, then He who is merciful to the 1000th generation... would not have sent word through His prophets; this is a lesson the world, even the churchianity world – the church world without Christ never learned.

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² Son of man, speak to **the children of your people** / speak to those who seem like immature children, 12-year-olds still in middle school,

and say to them, When I bring a sword upon **earth** / what God created in the beginning, and the people of **earth** take one person within their borders, and make him for their watchman / the one who first discovers the approaches and advances of the enemy / so he cannot be blind or sleeping:

³ If he sees the sword come upon the **earth**, and blows the trumpet, and warns the people;

⁴ Then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet, and does **not** take warning; and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be upon his own head.

⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet, and did **not** take warning; so, his blood will be upon himself -- if he had taken warning, he would have delivered his soul / his suicidal response proves he was a fool; he destroyed himself.

⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming, and does **not** blow the trumpet, so the people are **not** warned; and the sword comes and takes anyone among them, he is taken in his sin;

but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

⁷ So, son of man, I made you a watchman for the **House of Israel**; father Israel called his 12 sons and said, *Gather yourselves together, so I can tell you what will befall you in the last days -- Genesis 49*; likewise, all the prophets were also assigned to remind and warn the children and descendants of Israel... as Jesus said: *until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled -- Luke 21*. We all do well to remind each other in case some have not heard, or had forgot... what they all were told would happen.

when you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me / *because man does not live by bread alone...* this suggests there is a possibility of preventing the full impact of the advancing danger.

⁸ When I say to the wicked, O wicked / or O adulterer; O robber; O drunkard; O swearer; O sabbath-breaker, O wanderer,

you will surely die; and if you do **not** speak / not in passion to provoke, but in compassion...

to warn the wrong to turn from his way, that wrong will die in his sin; but his blood I will require at your hand / God desires the salvation of sinners, and resents those who do not what they can to prevent their destruction, who would rather conceal sin and flatter sinners in their evil.



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⁹ But if you warn the wrong to turn from his way; and he does **not** turn from his way, then he will die in his sin; but you have delivered your soul.

¹⁰ And you, son of man, say to the **House of Israel** / chiefly to children who forgot to grow up;

This is your cry: Surely if our transgressions and our sins weigh on us, and we are wasting away in them, how then can we live? / childishly they say: *If this is our doom; we all die; we perish, we all perish.* God gave them many promises and favors... He had *set life before them*, but they argued that He set it too far out of reach; they were industrious to justify themselves.

¹¹ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD,

I have **no pleasure in the death of the wrong; but that the wrong turns from his way and lives** / God does not rejoice when others weep... or weep when others rejoice; He is not twisted and perverse like us:

I have **no pleasure in the death of the wrong; but that the wrong turns from his way and lives** / God loves His creation and loves life... it's the fool of eternity who loves death and will do his damndest to have many join him; God patiently desires that we turn; we reconsider our ways and live.

The Lord GOD says from His vantage point...

turn around; turn around from your evil ways; for why will you die, O **House of Israel?**

¹² And you, son of man, say to **the children of your people** / say to those who seem like immature children still in middle school,

The rightness of the right will **not deliver him in the day he transgresses: the wrongness of the wrong will **not** bring him down in the day he turns from his wrongness; nor will the one doing right be able to live because of his *whatever*... in the day he sins.**

¹³ When I say to him doing right, that he will surely live;

but if he **trusts** / in Hebrew: *batach*, it means: *to lean on*... like one leaning on a walking stick for support; here, he leans on his own effort; Isaiah said of the Man of sorrows, who carried away our sin and disease; *when you will make His soul an offering for sin, He will see and be satisfied* -- **Isaiah 53**, we are to lean on our Savior who redeemed us with His own blood,

but if he **leans on his own rightness** / not a good thing; that is leaning on our self-righteousness;

and commits sin / any iniquity, any injustice, any inequality; the Lord said call one another: *brothers*,

all his rightnesses will **not be remembered;**

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but for his iniquity / for his sin... that he committed, he will surely die.

14 Again, when I say to the wrong / those who evilly practice doing wrong,

You will surely die; yet if he turns from his sin, and does what is lawful and right;

15 if a wrong one restores a pledge, and pays back what was taken by theft, and walks by the statutes of life, without committing iniquity / inequity; without the faulty thinking that: I deserve better and they don't... which leads to the wrong response: to just take what is not mine;

if a wrong one restores a pledge, and pays back what was taken by theft... that one will surely live, that one will not die.

16 None of the sins committed will be remembered against him: when he has done what is lawful and right; he will surely live.

17 Yet the children of your people/ those who seem like immature children still in middle school... **say,**

The way of the Lord is not equal / or just, or fair; which might sound right and logical, and full of truth, because that is true: we all should be dead:

the children of your people / serial liars, thieves and robbers, with seared conscience, who always sound like politicians, capable of accusing everyone but themselves, even God almighty; when they **say...**

the way of the Lord is not equal...

when it is them, their way is not equal / or just, or fair.

18 When the right one turns from his rightness, and does iniquity, then he dies / he continues in error and goes on in the spiral downward to its deadly consequences; when a traitor and a rebel take up arms against the rightful Sovereign, it will not serve for him to plead in his own defense that formerly he was a loyal subject, and did many good services to the government – MH.

19 But when the wrong turns from his wrongness, and does what is lawful and right, he lives.

20 Yet you say,

The way of the Lord is not equal / not just, not fair.

O House of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways / in other words: push aside your little birdbrain judgments about fairness: though they are all involved in the common calamity... though they were sent into captivity by the lump, good fish and bad enclosed in the same net, yet there He will separate between the precious and the vile and will render unto each according to his works -- MH.

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Next, we come to a turning point in Ezekiel's ministry; the fall of Jerusalem is done; the city was burned.

²¹ And it happened in the twelfth year of our captivity, on the fifth of the tenth month, that one who escaped from Jerusalem came to me, saying: The city was taken.

²² Now the hand of the LORD was on me the evening before the escapee came; and He opened my mouth when one came to me in the morning; so, my mouth was opened, and I was no more speechless.

²³ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

²⁴ Son of man, those who live in waste places of Israel are saying, Abraham was one man, yet he inherited the earth / and he possessed land; and cattle... and lots of cool junk collecting stuff:

but we are many; surely the earth is given us for an inheritance / their illogical arrogance caused them to think they all deserved to stay because they were children of Abraham; they obviously understood nothing about the trials of faith the Lord GOD made Abraham pass through.

²⁵ Therefore answer them / hoping to clear up some of their faulty thinking,

Thus says the Lord GOD;

You eat with blood / violating laws given since the days of Noah; certainly, violating the commandments they were warned at Sinai to keep and do... and live blessed; or ignore them and become accursed; and the question is: Are those 10 commands in effect today? Of course. God is not the author of lawlessness: the Lord God is still the only God, to love Him above all else... to worship and bow to Him... with all our heart and soul and mind and strength...is still a perfectly good thing to seek and do... everyday,

and lift up your eyes to your idols / checking on their idols, when their hearts are far from God,

and shed blood / they murder the innocent; which means they act like Cain and not like Abel:

will you then possess the earth?

²⁶ You rely on your sword, you commit abominations, and everyone defiles his neighbor's wife: / they envision the neighbor's wife is so lucky (she isn't); so, they were onboard a speeding train to hell; they expected the inheritance of Isaac, when in reality they had the disposition of Ishmael

will you *miscreants*... then possess the earth? NO!

²⁷ Say this to them,

Thus says the Lord GOD; As I live,

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1. surely those who are in the waste places / especially the wasted cities... **will fall by the sword,**
2. and whoever is in the open field, I will give to the beasts to be devoured,
3. and those who are in the strongholds and in caves / be it an artificial fortress or natural defense will die by pestilence.

²⁸ And I will make the **earth** a desolation, a desolation / it will be total destruction,

and her proud strength / whatever she glories in... **will cease;**

and the mountains of Israel / fruitful that they had been, flowing with milk and honey...

will be so desolate that none will pass through.

²⁹ Then they will know / as well as anybody knows who goes to school. What is their lesson to learn?

I am the LORD,

when I have made the **earth** a desolation and a waste

because of all their abominations that they have committed / when God speaks once; our ears should pay attention. The writer of Hebrews says, *God previously spoke to us in bits and pieces, and in various ways through the prophets, but in the last days, spoke to us in His Son -- Hebrews1*. During the time when 3 days still are on His calendar, the 2 great questions regarding God, His prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and the others, and the only beloved Son of God... are: 1. Did God speak clearly? And 2: Did He... through them forget to tell us anything of importance? The pedophiles, thieves and crooks... along with the last government say: Yes. I say **NO**.

³⁰ As for you, son of man, **the children of your people** / those who seem like immature children still in middle school -- but the problem is they aren't 12-year-olds; they are people who never grew up; and they are mocking the messenger of the LORD...

who still talk against you by the walls and at the doors of the houses,

saying one to another, each to his brother,

I ask you, Come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD / in other words and somewhat mockingly they like to banter about the prophet saying,

Let's go and hear what the preacher has to say today;

perhaps it will be something new, or entertaining.

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³¹ **And they come to you as people come,**

and they sit before you as My people / so on the surface, they are going through the motions,

and they hear your words / they say... they believe in uhhhh churchianity and the Man upstairs... yes! Their customary parking their carcass in the pew... where they praise the LORD with *a song and dance*; sitting there in the pew? Their habit was to follow the crowd and find out what Ezekiel had to say,

and they hear your words, but they will not do them:

for with their mouth they show much love / their specious pretensions reveal a lot of lip service and perhaps some fervent shouting is going on, too: Amen; Praise the Lord...

but their heart is set on their covetousness / but their heart chases after their insatiable greed; they are as much in love and league with the crumbling world as anybody; distracted by its cares and concerns.

³² **And behold, you are to them as a very lovely song** / hearing the prophet is only a diversion... amusing for an hour or two; but just like listening to a top-10 selection on the music charts, and no more; lives built on sand... at best, or at worst... are built on nothing but empty, wishful moments,

like a pleasant singer, who plays the instrument well:

for they hear your words, but they will not do them / since the time of Moses, prophets gave the same reminder, warning the people of all God commanded them, all 10 commandments, nothing more; even a child could do it; so when they entered the land to possess it; they would diligently *keep and do and teach their children*... how to live; but to negligently deviate from it, they would die -- **Deut.4-11**.

³³ **And when this happens,**

-- **mark this, it will come** – the Lord says not just to Ezekiel, but to us also, there is a day of leveling that is coming; C.S. Lewis wrote: when the Author steps on the stage, we know the drama is over...

then they will know that a prophet / who, despite all the scoffers, was willing to sound the trumpet,

has been among them.