

Ezekiel 33:1-20 **WATCHMAN – Responsibility of Watchman**
Responsibility of hearer – Life & Death

The Watchman and His Message

1 Again the word of Yahweh (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 Adoney Yahweh (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?'

The Fairness of God's Judgment

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 Yahweh (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 Yahweh (the Lord) is not fair.' O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

A Watchman and His Message [Ezekiel 33:1-6]

- ✧ This message is to the **watchman** of **any nation** and its people.
 - ✧ Yahweh is sending punishment upon the nation because of their sin and iniquity.
 - ✧ The watchman warns the people, the sword comes and they fail to listen to the warning, they will die for their iniquity and their blood is upon their own shoulders.
 - ✧ If the watchman fails to warn the people, they will die for their iniquity but the responsibility is placed upon the shoulders of the watchman.
 - ✧ The watchman is responsible for his actions, he must give the warning so the people have a chance to act to save themselves.

Ezekiel appointed Watchman for the house of Israel [Ezekiel 33:7-11]

- ✧ Ezekiel hears the warning from Yahweh, he must warn the people.
 - ✧ Ezekiel must warn the righteous and the wicked.
 - ✧ If Ezekiel fails to warn the wicked, the wicked will die and Ezekiel will be held responsible for his failure to warn them.
 - ✧ If Ezekiel warns them all he has accomplished his duty and is innocent of their choices.
 - ✧ If the wicked reject the warning they will die, if they repent they will be forgiven and live.
 - ✧ If the righteous become proud of their righteousness and sin they will die because of their sin, but if they repent they will be forgiven and live.
 - ✧ Yahweh finds no pleasure in the death of sinners, but desires all to come to repentance so they may live. [Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11, Matthew 9:13, Mark 2:17, Luke 5:32, Acts 3:19, 2 Peter 3:9]

The Fairness of God's Judgment [Ezekiel 33:12-20]

- ✧ Yahweh's judgment is more fair than mankind.
 - ✧ The soul that sins will die.
 - ✧ The soul that repents will be forgiven and live.
 - ✧ It is a call for everyone to come to repentance and live.
 - ✧ None of the righteousness of a person will be remembered when he turns to sin and wickedness.
 - ✧ None of the wickedness will be remembered when one repents turning to righteousness.
 - ✧ Yahweh will judge every-one according to his own ways and final choice.
 - ✧ To the very end Yahweh holds out His promise to forgive on the basis of repentance.
 - ✧ Yahweh calls all to choose life by responding to the call to repentance.