

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 June ..... Ezekiel 01-07 ..... When Your World Crumbles
- 2) 08 June ..... Ezekiel 08-14 ..... When Idols Tug at your Heart
- 3) 15 June ..... Ezekiel 15-19 ..... When You Want to Blame Others
- 4) 22 June ..... Ezekiel 20-24 ..... When Tragedy Hits Home
- 5) 29 June ..... Ezekiel 25-32 ..... When Pride Turns to Greed
- 6) 06 July ..... Ezekiel 33-35 ..... Hope of New Freedom**
- 7) 13 July ..... Ezekiel 36-39 ..... Hope of New Life
- 8) 20 July ..... Ezekiel 40-48 ..... Hope of New Worship
- 9) 27 July ..... Daniel 01 ..... Draw the Line
- 10) 03 August ..... Daniel 02-03 ..... Risk Everything for God
- 11) 10 August ..... Daniel 04-05 ..... Tell it Like it is
- 12) 17 August ..... Daniel 06 ..... Never Give Up on Prayer
- 13) 24 August ..... Daniel 07-08 ..... Live to Win in the End
- 14) 31 August ..... Daniel 09-12 ..... Be Ready for Tribulation

INTRODUCTION

- We will see in this lesson that God looks to eventually restore the fortunes of Israel – plus much, much more
- If someone tormented, terrorized, and brutalized you and your family would you be OK if a judge pardoned him from his crimes, released him from prison, and restored to him any lost income and blessed him beyond measure? NO! That is not justice. That is not even mercy. And that is not what we have here in Ezekiel.
- When God restores the fortunes of Israel we must realize the people of Israel who will be blessed beyond measure will be a different group of people from those who provoked God to nearly wipe them out and disperse them throughout the world. The Nation of Israel might be the same, but the people who comprise her in the last days will be a totally different group of individuals
- Remember – God can raise up rocks to praise Him ..... Mat 3:9
- America celebrated her 238<sup>th</sup> birthday this 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Are we the same America as that of 1776? Are we better? Are we worse?
  - ♦ 151 years ago, the year when America celebrated her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, **Abraham Lincoln** said this when he proclaimed the declaration for a National Fast Day, “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. **But we have forgotten God.** We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”

- Source The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, ed. Roy P. Basler, vol. 6, p. 156

Passage	Comments										
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ vv12-20. “God is not FAIR” – The wicked, if they repent, will live; BUT the righteous, if they sin, will die. Consider the perspective of John 2:19 – “If they had been of us, they would have remained with us”</li> </ul>										
33:21-33	<p><b>Some Misread God’s Warnings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v22. “. . . and I was no longer speechless.” Ezekiel was mute for about 3 years, so he must have conveyed his prophecies via a writing tablet ..... see 3:26; 24:27</li> <li>• vv25-26. God asks 2 rhetorical questions whether the Jews deserved to possess the land. The obvious answer is NO for their many &amp; varied sins</li> <li>• v31. Large crowds came to hear Ezekiel’s messages from God, but they did not change. They wanted economic profit, not spiritual renewal – Sound familiar?</li> </ul>										
34:1-31	<p><b>God Acts to Rescue His People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-10. God condemns the shepherds (spiritual leaders) for neglecting the sheep – Yet God still holds the sheep responsible for not straying</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Things they failed to do:</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Things they did:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Feed the sheep</td> <td>1. They fed themselves</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Strengthen the weak</td> <td>2. They scattered sheep</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Heal the sick</td> <td>3. Used force to control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Seek the lost</td> <td>4. They did not search for sheep</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v11-31. God promises to restore the Davidic kingdom with One Shepherd, “My servant, David” .....cf Rev 7:17                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ They will enjoy peace and showers of blessings (probable allusion to the post-Millennial kingdom)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Things they failed to do:	Things they did:	1. Feed the sheep	1. They fed themselves	2. Strengthen the weak	2. They scattered sheep	3. Heal the sick	3. Used force to control	4. Seek the lost	4. They did not search for sheep
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35:1-15	<p><b>Prophecy Against Mount Seir/Edom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount Seir, a mountain range that ran the entire length of Edom, was another reference to Edom (sons of Esau)</li> <li>• This would spell double-trouble for the Jewish cousins (Edomites) – Recall 25:12-14.</li> <li>• By the time the Romans conquered Israel, Edomites were called Idumeans. Herod the Great was an Idumite</li> <li>• After the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. the Idumeans (Edomites) disappeared from history</li> </ul>										

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We have a job to do as watchmen over the souls of our families, co-workers, friends, and others whom God sends our way
- God wants to use us to share the Gospel with the lost and bless us accordingly – Let us not miss too many opportunities to reap rewards

**NEXT WEEK:** Ezekiel 36-39. Both Judah and Israel become one nation again, and the Davidic Kingdom is restored. One final invasion of Israel is foretold, with invaders (Gog) destroyed.

<i>Civilizations, nations, &amp; empires that have tried to destroy the Jews</i>	
NATION	STATUS
<i>Ancient Egypt</i>	X – Gone
<i>Philistines, Edomites, Canaanites,</i>	X – Gone
<i>Assyrian Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Babylonian Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Persian Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Greek Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Roman Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Byzantine Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Crusaders</i>	X – Gone
<i>Spanish Empire</i>	X – Gone
<i>Nazi Germany</i>	X – Gone
<i>Soviet Union</i>	X – Gone
<i>Modern day Hamas, Iraq, &amp; Iran</i>	Demise is Pending
<i>Future Gog and Magog</i>	Destruction is Foretold

Israel might be one of smallest of nations but they have a Friend in the highest of places

Passage	Comments
Ezekiel 33:1-20	<p><b>The Watchman’s Duty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The historical era of Ezekiel’s time was not much different from what we see happening in the Middle East today. Assyrians were fighting the Babylonians, the Babylonians were fighting the Egyptians, the Egyptians were fighting the Assyrians, and everyone was fighting the Israelites</li> <li>• vv1-9. God tells Ezekiel he holds those who are in the know (the watchmen) responsible for not alerting others to impending danger. Are we watchmen? ..... YES                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ If we fail to witness, are we responsible for people going to Hell?</li> <li>♦ We will be held accountable. We will either reap or lose Heavenly rewards for being obedient</li> <li>♦ BUT, we are not responsible if someone ends up in Heaven or Hell. Each individual is responsible for their own decisions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v11. <i>God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Therefore, God must provide a way for the wicked to turn – and He has. It’s called “Free Will”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>