

LESSON FOR AUGUST 13

I. Ezekiel Appointed as Watchman, 33:1-20

A. What was his responsibility, 2-3; 6-9. Watchman: a guard stationed in a watch-tower on a city wall to signal the approach of anyone, especially an enemy. Ezekiel was such in relation to Israel.

B. What was not his responsibility, 4-5, 10-20. See Acts 20:26.

II. Ezekiel's Mouth Opened, 33:21-33. See 24:25-27 for when his mouth was closed 7 years before, Date in v. 21 is Jan. 9, 585. In vv. 23-29 Ezekiel condemns Israelites who stayed in the land expecting a short captivity. In 30-33 he rebukes those in Babylon with him.

III. Israel's Shepherds, 34:1-31

A. False shepherds, 34:1-10. Their sins, 2-6. Their judgment, 7-10.

B. The True Shepherd (God), 34:11-31.

1. He will restore the sheep to their land, both from the Babylonian captivity and from the world at His second coming, 11-16 (see Matt. 24:31).

2. He will judge the individual sheep, 17-22.

3. He will install David's greatest Son, Jesus, as shepherd in the millennium, 23-24.

4. He will establish the new covenant with Israel, 25-31, including a temple (37:26-28).

IV. Judgment on Edom, 35:1-15. Cf. 25:12-14. Ed was a prototype of all Israel's enemies.

Judgment stated, 1-4. Judgment justified, 5-15. "These 2 nations" (v. 10) = Israel and Judah. Vv. 14-15 serve as another example of Gen. 12:3.

V. Israel's Restoration, 36:1-15

A. Promise to judge the enemies of Israel, 1-7.

B. Promise to make Israel exceedingly fruitful, 8-15.

C. Rehearsal of the sins of Israel, 16-23. V. 20 is sarcasm on the part of the heathen.

D. Restoration of the people of Israel, 24-38.

1. Physical regathering, 24.

2. Spiritual salvation, 25-27.

3. Possession and productivity of the land and people, 28-38.