

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

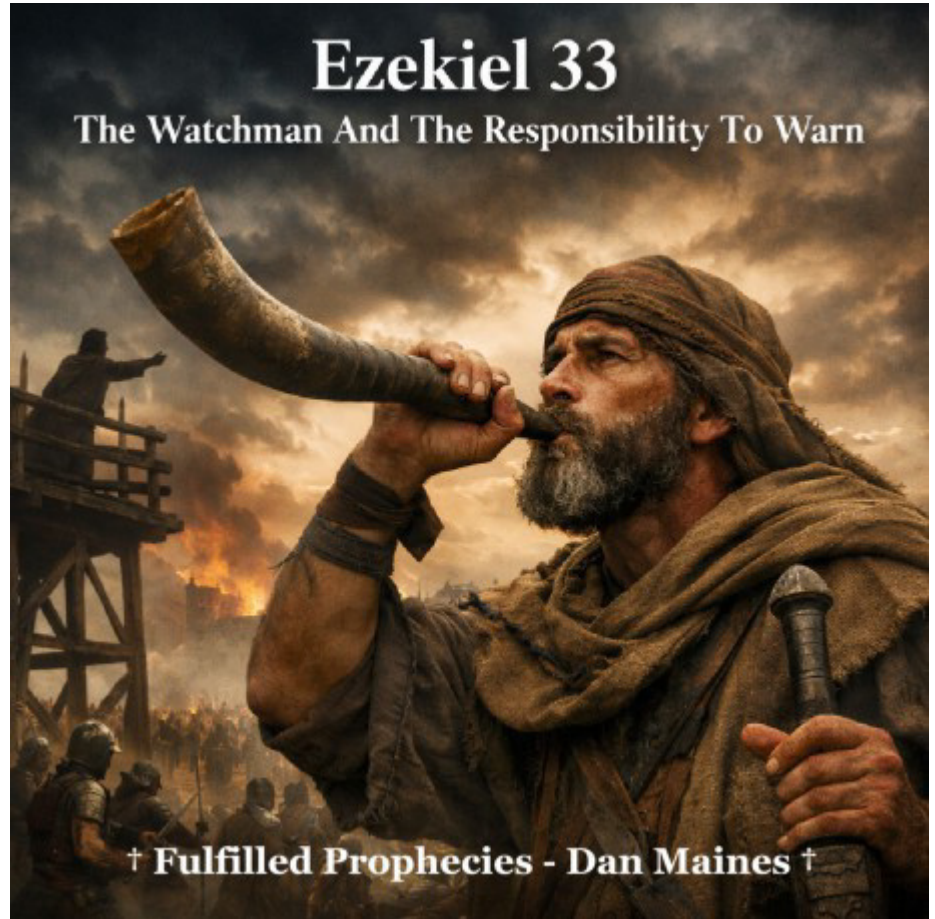
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Ezekiel 33 The Watchman And The Responsibility To Warn



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 33 The Watchman And The Responsibility To Warn

Introduction

† Ezekiel 33 is a turning point, God lays out personal responsibility, no one can hide behind another man's actions anymore, each person stands accountable before Him.

† This chapter comes right before the fall of Jerusalem is confirmed, showing that God warned them again and again

before judgment came.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this is exactly what we see leading up to AD 70, repeated warnings through prophets, through Christ, and through the apostles, yet the people refused to listen.

Scripture

Ezekiel 33:1-3

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people,

† God establishes the role of a watchman, someone responsible to warn others of coming judgment.

† This isn't optional, if God gives the warning, it must be spoken.

† This directly connects to the prophets and ultimately to Christ and the apostles warning Israel before its destruction (Matthew 24:33).

Ezekiel 33:4-5

then the one who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have saved his life.

† Responsibility shifts to the hearer, if they hear and reject, it's on them.

† This destroys the idea that people are judged without warning, God always gives warning first.

† Jesus said the same thing, they saw, they heard, yet refused (John 12:37-40).

Ezekiel 33:6

But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his wrongdoing, but I will require his blood from the watchman's hand.

† The watchman is accountable if he stays silent.

† This shows why the prophets were so bold, they knew silence meant guilt.

† This applies directly to those who knew judgment was coming on that generation but failed to speak (Matthew 23:36).

Ezekiel 33:7

Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for the house of Israel, so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me.

† Ezekiel is directly commissioned by God, not speaking his own message.

† This is the same pattern with Christ, He spoke what the Father gave Him (John 12:49).

† The apostles carried that same responsibility leading up to AD 70.

Ezekiel 33:8-9

When I say to the wicked, O wicked person, you will certainly

die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked person will die for his wrongdoing, but I will require his blood from your hand. But if you on your part warn a wicked person to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die for his wrongdoing, but you have saved your life.

† The focus is warning people to turn, not forcing them to change.

† God doesn't hold the watchman responsible for their response, only for delivering the message.

† This matches the ministry of Jesus, He warned, yet many refused (Luke 13:34).

Ezekiel 33:10-11

Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have spoken, saying, Surely our offenses and our sins are upon us, and we are rotting away in them, how then can we survive? Say to them, As I live! declares the Lord GOD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, house of Israel?

† God reveals His heart, He desires repentance, not destruction.

† The call to turn back was repeated all the way to the time of Christ.

† Jesus echoed this exact plea before Jerusalem's fall (Luke 19:41-44).

Ezekiel 33:12-16

And you, son of man, say to your fellow citizens, The righteousness of a righteous person will not save him on the day of his wrongdoing, and as for the wickedness of the wicked,

he will not stumble because of it on the day when he turns from his wickedness; whereas a righteous person will not be able to live by his righteousness on the day when he commits sin.

When I say to the righteous that he will certainly live, and he so trusts in his righteousness that he commits wrongdoing, none of his righteous deeds will be remembered; but he will die for his wrongdoing which he has committed. But when I say to the wicked, You will certainly die, and he turns from his sin and practices justice and righteousness, if a wicked person restores a pledge, pays back what he has taken by robbery, walks by the statutes which ensure life without committing wrongdoing, he will certainly live; he shall not die. None of his sins that he has committed will be remembered against him. He has practiced justice and righteousness; he will certainly live.

† God shows individual accountability, not inherited righteousness.

† This exposes the false confidence many had in being part of Israel.

† This is exactly what Jesus confronted, trusting in heritage instead of obedience (Matthew 3:9).

Ezekiel 33:17-20

Yet your fellow citizens say, The way of the Lord is not right, when it is their own way that is not right. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits wrongdoing, then he will die in it. But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and practices justice and righteousness, he will live by them. Yet you say, The way of the Lord is not right. House of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.

† People blamed God instead of taking responsibility.

† This same accusation was made in Jesus' time.

† Judgment came exactly as God said, proving His ways are right.

Ezekiel 33:21

Now in the twelfth year of our exile, on the fifth of the tenth month, those who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me, saying, The city has been taken.

† This marks the historical fall of Jerusalem to Babylon.

† It's proof that everything God warned came to pass.

† This becomes a pattern pointing forward to the final destruction in AD 70.

Ezekiel 33:23-24

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, they who live in these waste places in the land of Israel are saying, Abraham was only one, yet he possessed the land, so to us who are many the land has been given as a possession.

† They trusted in Abraham instead of obedience.

† This same argument was made in the first century.

† Jesus directly refuted this thinking (John 8:39).

Ezekiel 33:30-32

But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD. They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument,

for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

† They loved hearing truth but refused to live it.

† This describes the crowds that followed Jesus but didn't obey Him.

† This is one of the clearest warnings about empty religion.

Ezekiel 33:33

So when it comes to pass, as it certainly will, then they will know that a prophet has been among them.

† God guarantees fulfillment, what He speaks will happen.

† This is exactly what happened when Jerusalem fell, they knew the warnings were true.

† Jesus said the same thing, when these things happen, then you'll know (Luke 21:31).

Historical References

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.2.5, records that warnings were given before Jerusalem's destruction, yet the people ignored them.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5, notes that believers fled Jerusalem after recognizing the warnings, showing the watchman message was heard by some.

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13, records signs and warnings before the fall, confirming that judgment didn't come without notice.

How it applies to us today

† We can't rely on past righteousness, it's about walking faithfully now.

† Hearing truth isn't enough, we must actually live it.

† God still expects His people to speak truth, silence isn't an option.

† Responsibility is personal, we can't blame others or hide behind group identity.

Q & A Appendix

Q When was this fulfilled?

A The immediate fulfillment was in the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon around 586 BC, but the full covenantal pattern was fulfilled again in AD 70 when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, exactly as Jesus warned (Luke 21:20-22).

Q Who is the watchman today?

A Those who know the truth are responsible to speak it, just like the apostles were before AD 70 (Acts 20:26-27).

Q Does God want to destroy people?

A No, Ezekiel 33:11 shows He desires repentance, the same message Jesus preached (Luke 5:32).

Q Why were the people judged?

A Because they heard and refused to obey, just like Jesus said in Matthew 23:37.

Q What is the main lesson of this chapter?

A Personal responsibility, hearing isn't enough, obedience is required (James 1:22).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Ezekiel 33

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History;
Tacitus, Histories

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.