### Ezekiel

## Chapter 33

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 2‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Speak to the sons of your people  
 And this is what you should tell them:  
  
 ‘To whichever land that I bring the sword;  
 The people of that country should then choose a man  
 And assign him to act as their watchman.  
 3Then, when he sees the sword coming,  
 He should blow his trumpet to warn them.  
  
 4‘And after they hear the sound of the horn;  
 If they should refuse to prepare  
 And the broadsword then overtakes them,  
 Their blood will be upon their own heads.  
  
 5‘So when they hear the sound of the trumpet,  
 They should [quickly] prepare,  
 Or their blood will be upon their own heads,  
 While the one who kept watch on their souls will be saved.  
  
 6‘But, if the watchman should see the sword coming  
 And fail to trumpet the signal  
 So the people are caught unprepared;  
 This watchman must then be taken away  
 Because of the lawless [thing that he did]…  
 And I’ll require his blood by their hands.’  
  
 7‘And you, O son of man,  
  
 ‘You’re the watchman whom I have appointed  
 Over the house of IsraEl.  
 So whenever you hear a word from my mouth,  
 You must announce it on my behalf.  
  
 8‘Then, should I say that a sinner will die,  
 And you fail to speak out and warn him;  
 For this lawless deed, you will die…  
 I’ll require his blood from your hands.  
  
 9‘But, if you should warn an irreverent man  
 And tell him to turn from [his bad] ways…  
 If he refuses to make any change;  
 For the bad things he’s done, he will die…  
 But, you will have saved your own life.  
  
 10‘Now, O son of man,  
  
 ‘Say this to the house of IsraEl…  
 Tell them that they have been asking:  
  
 ‘Since we are the ones who’re to blame  
 For our delusions and our lawless ways;  
 If we should turn from them now,  
 Can our lives still be spared?’  
  
 11‘You should speak to them and give this reply…  
 Tell them that Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘As I live…  
 I don’t want the death of the godless,  
 [I just want them] to turn from their evil ways  
 So that they can continue to live!  
 But first, you must turn away  
 From all the bad things that you’re doing…  
 O house of IsraEl, why must you die?’  
  
 12‘And you, O son of man,  
  
 ‘Say this to the sons of your people:  
  
 ‘The good things that the righteous have done  
 Won’t save them in the day that they turn away.  
 And the blame that the lawless are due  
 Won’t come to them in the day  
 That they turn from their godless ways.  
 And no way will the righteous be saved  
 In the day that they are found sinning.  
  
 13‘So, when I say that the righteous will live,  
 And they come to rely upon this…  
 But thereafter, they [do what is] evil;  
 Their righteous ways will be forgotten…  
 For the sins they commit, they will die!  
  
 14‘And when I say that the godless will die,  
 And then they turn from their sins  
 And start being righteous and fair…  
 15If they give back the collateral they’ve taken,  
 And return all the things that they’ve seized…  
 If they’ll travel an orderly life  
 And no longer [follow] wrong [paths];  
 They will continue to live…  
  
 ‘No way will they have to die…  
 16Their sins will all be forgotten…  
 For making their ways righteous and fair,  
 Their lives will thereafter be spared!  
  
 17‘But if the sons of your people should say,  
 ‘The ways of Jehovah aren’t right,’  
 When it’s really their ways that aren’t right;  
 This is what you should tell them:  
  
 18‘If the righteous should turn from right ways  
 And start doing things that are lawless,  
 They will die [for their sins].  
 19But, if you turn back a sinner,  
 And he becomes fair and righteous, he’ll live!’  
  
 20‘So, although the House of IsraEl is saying  
 That the ways of Jehovah aren’t straight,  
 I will judge each man by the things that he does!’  
  
  
21It was in the 12th year (on the 5th day of the 10th month from our captivity) that someone who had escaped from JeruSalem came and told me that the city had been taken. 22Then the hand of Jehovah came over me that evening.  
  
However, before that [escapee came with the news], earlier in the morning, [the Word] came and opened my mouth so that my mouth couldn’t stay closed any longer. 23For the Word of Jehovah came to me and said this:  
  
 24‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Those who live in the places that are being destroyed  
 In the land of IsraEl, are saying:  
  
 ‘Back in AbraHam’s time,  
 He was given this land;  
 And now that we’ve become many,  
 We’ve also been given this land as our own!’  
  
 25‘Because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah, their Lord:  
  
 ‘Since you eat blood in your food,  
 And to disgusting things, lift your eyes,  
 And you shed [innocent] blood;  
 Why do you think you’ll inherit this land?  
  
 26‘For, there you stand with your broadswords  
 As you’re doing things that are loathsome!  
 If you profane the souls of your neighbors’ wives…  
 Do you think that you will inherit this land?  
  
 27‘So, tell them that the Lord Jehovah says this:  
  
 As I live;  
 Those who live in the places that are being destroyed  
 Will all be cut down by the broadsword.  
 And those who run out to the plains  
 Will be given as food to wild beasts.  
 While those who hide behind walls and in caves  
 Will thereafter die from a plague!  
  
 28‘Then I’ll turn their land into a desert,  
 And the strength of their insolence will perish.  
 I’ll devastate IsraEl’s mountains  
 So that none will pass through them again.  
  
 29‘Then they’ll know that I am Jehovah  
 When I turn their land into a desert  
 For the disgusting things that they’ve done.  
  
 30‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘The sons of your people are talking about you  
 Along the walls and in the gatehouses,  
 As well as inside of their homes.  
 Each one is saying this to his brother:  
  
 ‘We should all gather and listen  
 To what Jehovah has planned!’  
  
 31‘So, after they all come to see you  
 And they sit down before you  
 To hear the things that you’ll say;  
 There’s no way that they’ll do [what you tell them]!  
 For the lie is still in their mouths,  
 And they follow the disgusting ways of their hearts.  
  
 32‘So, if you should be the sound of a harp,  
 A sound that is sweet and well-tuned,  
 They’ll listen to your words, but not do them!  
 33But after it’s done, they’ll admit:  
 ‘Look… It has all come to pass!’  
 ‘And they’ll know that there’s been a Prophet among them.’