

Ezekiel 33 – Transition Chapter

Ezekiel 33	Hyperlinks	Purpose
33:1-9 <i>Ezekiel the Watchman</i> ¹ The word of the LORD came to me ... ⁷ “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.” (33:1, 7)	= Ezekiel 3:16-21 ¹⁶ And at the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁷ “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.” (3:16-17)	<i>Ezekiel has acted faithfully as a watchman</i> <i>Now his message will change from judgment to hope</i>
33:10-20 <i>Divine Logic of Repentance</i> I say to the righteous ... if he ... does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴ Again ... I say to the wicked ... if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right ... ¹⁶ None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him ... he shall surely live. (33:13-16) Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live (33:11) Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. (33:17)	= Ezekiel 18:1-32 ²¹ “But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins ... and does what is just and right ... ²² None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered ... he shall live ²⁴ But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice ... None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered ... he shall die. (18:21-22, 24-25) Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? (18:23) Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? (18:25)	 <i>While Ezekiel 1—24 announced unrelenting judgment on Jerusalem, this decree is not fixed or permanent</i> <i>Repentance can still produce restoration</i> <i>And Ezekiel’s audience is beginning to be receptive to this message (33:10)</i>
33:21-33 <i>Jerusalem is Struck Down</i> In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, a fugitive from Jerusalem came to me and said, “The city has been struck down.” (33:21) Now the hand of the LORD had been upon me the evening before the fugitive came; and he had opened my mouth by the time the man came to me in the morning, so my mouth was opened, and I was no longer mute. (33:22)	= Ezekiel 24:15-27 & 3:22-27 surely on the day when I take from them their stronghold ... the delight of their eyes ... ²⁶ on that day a fugitive will come to you to report to you the news. (24:25-26) ²⁷ On that day your mouth will be opened to the fugitive, and you shall speak and be no longer mute. (24:27) ²⁶ And I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and unable to reprove them, for they are a rebellious house. ²⁷ But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ He who will hear, let him hear; and he who will refuse to hear, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house. (3:26-27)	 <i>The fugitive’s message proves Ezekiel’s message of judgment</i> <i>But the opening of Ezekiel’s mouth is a signal of a new season of prophetic ministry</i> <i>12 years of oracles of restoration</i>