**Ezekiel 33:1 – 37:28**

**Read: Ezekiel 33:1-33** Ezekiel the Sentinel… the City has fallen.

* What is the responsibility of a sentinel? Ezekiel the prophet?

In Verses 10 – 20 examine the exchange between God and the people.

* Whose ways are not just?
* What is God’s judgment toward the people?

“Jerusalem’s destruction must have caused many Judeans to question both Yahweh’s power and the feasibility of Yahwistic religion. Why continue to worship a deity who, at the crucial hour, was either unwilling or unable to protect “his” chosen people, the Davidic dynasty, the Temple? From the perspective of Ezekiel’s preaching, however, Judah’s collapse vindicated God, who used Nebuchadrezzar’s army justly to punish the house of Israel for its long-lived history of sin. Moreover, the prophet is vindicated by the city’s demise.” (NIB, 1455)

Can we ever consider “tragedy” as a vindication of God? Why or why not?

**Read Ezekiel 34:1-16**. – The beginning of the Gospel according to Ezekiel.

“The people’s of the ancient Near East spoke of kings as shepherds and of their subjects as sheep, thereby emphasizing the responsibility of the former diligently to care for and protect the latter. In ancient Israel, kings were expected to “tend” their subjects; and God held them accountable for their treatment of the flock.

The shepherd/flock metaphor is ancient but enduring. Its significance for Christian Ministry is reflected in our use of “pastor” to refer to ordained ministers. Ministers serve as shepherds obedient to God. They are not self-appointed, nor are they engaged primarily by the flock. Instead, they are called by God to divine service.” (NIB, 1464)

**See Also: John 10:11-15**

**Read Ezekiel 34:17-22** – Sheep, Goats, & Judgement

**See Also: Matthew 25:31-40**

**Read Ezekiel 34:25-31** – A covenant of Peace (God’s eternal promises)

Some of this language is picked up in the Lutheran Funeral Service.

**Read Ezekiel 36:22-32**

* What is God doing? Why is God doing this?

**Read Ezekiel 37:1-14**

* Can these bones live? Of course not. But look at them through God’s eyes, and watch bone rush to bone.
* What is the hope that is made known to the people? What is seemingly impossible for us?
* What do you do with hope? – Why is it important (or not) in your life?

**Read Ezekiel 37:15-28**

* What are the hope filled promises that are present in this section?

**Ezekiel Outline: (From New Interpreters Bible Commentary)**

1. **Ezekiel 33:1-33 – The City of Jerusalem has Fallen**
   * 33:1-20 – A call for repentance
   * 33:21-22 – “The City has Fallen”
   * 33:23-29 – Judgment on the Survivors Remaining in Judah
   * 33:30-33 – They Hear your words but do not put them into practice
2. **Ezekiel 34:1-31 – The Lord is Your Shepherd; You shall not Want**
   * 34:1-10 – Woe to the Shepherds of Israel
   * 34:11-16 – Yahweh, Israel’s Good Shepherd
   * 34:17-31 – Yahweh Arbitrates, Establishes, and Initiates
3. **Ezekiel 35:1-36:15 – God’s word to Mt. Seir and to the Mountains of Israel**
   * 35:1-15 – An Oracle against Mt. Seir
   * 36:1-15 – Salvation for the Mountains of Israel
   * 3:16-38 – For the Sake of My Holy Name
4. **Ezekiel 37:1-14 – “Mortal can these bones live?”** 
   * 37:1-10 – The Dry Bones are Re-membered
   * 37:11-14 – Disputation, Interpretation, and Salvation
5. **Ezekiel 37:15-28 – The Re-union and Restoration of the People of Israel**
   * 37:15-19 – A Sign Act
   * 37:20-24a – The Significance of the Sign Act
   * 37:24b-28 – God’s Unending Blessings