

# Week 34: Ezekiel - A Watchman for the House of Israel

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

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## Introduction

Ezekiel was called to speak to a very stubborn and rebellious people during one of Israel's darkest hours. Jerusalem was falling, the exile was underway, and the people had once again started to ignore God's warnings. Yet God did not abandon them, He instead raised up a watchman.

Ezekiel's calling was heavy: to speak truth whether people listened or not, to warn of judgment, to call for repentance, and to bear responsibility for sounding the alarm. This week teaches families about accountability, obedience, leadership, and the serious responsibility of speaking truth in love - especially when that truth is unpopular and silence feels safer.

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## Scripture Reading (KJV)

Ezekiel 2:1-7, Ezekiel 3:16-21, Ezekiel 18:30-32, Ezekiel 33:1-9

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## **Ezekiel 2:1-7 - Sent to a Rebellious House**

*1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.*

*2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.*

*3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.*

*4 For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God.*

*5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.*

*6 And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.*

*7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.*

## **Commentary**

God made Ezekiel's task clear from the beginning: that his obedience mattered more than any results. The people were rebellious, hard-hearted, and quite resistant - but Ezekiel was still required to speak the truth because faithfulness is not measured by public approval or agreement, it has always been measured by obedience to God's commandments. Our families must learn that the truth does not change based on how it is received by others.

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## **Ezekiel 3:16–21 - The Responsibility of the Watchman**

*16 And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.*

*18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

*19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

*20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

*21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.*

## Commentary

This passage establishes the accountability we all have as Christians. Silence in the face of sin is not being neutral but being disobedient (the old adage “silence is consent”, applies well here). God holds the watchman responsible for warning others, not for controlling the outcome. Parents, husbands, and leaders all bear similar responsibilities in their homes, churches, communities and countries: to speak truth boldly, lovingly, and without fear of perceived consequences.

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## Ezekiel 18:30–32 - A Call to Repent and Live

*30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.*

*31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

*32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*

## Commentary

God’s warnings are never cruel, they are merciful. The judgment is real, but repentance is always invited, encouraged and preferred. God desires us to have life and peace, not destruction. A faithful household does not ignore sin but confronts it with the goal of restoration, peace and obedience.

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## Ezekiel 33:1–9 - The Watchman Reaffirmed

*1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:*

*3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;*

*4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.*

*5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.*

*6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.*

*7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.*

*8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

*9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

## **Commentary**

God repeats the watchman principle because it matters. Being warned is an act of love and a chance to repent. Families that refuse to confront sin invite destruction while families that speak truth preserve life. Each person remains responsible for their response, but the watchman must never remain silent, lest he bear a portion of the responsibility of their sin.

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## **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

### **Young Children**

- What does a watchman do?
- Why did God send Ezekiel to warn the people?
- Is it loving to warn someone of danger?

### **Older Children & Teens**

- Why does God hold the watchman responsible for warning?
- Why do people sometimes refuse correction?

- How can truth be spoken with love?

## Adults

- Where has fear tempted us toward silence?
  - How does this apply to leadership in the home?
  - What does faithful warning look like in marriage and parenting?
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## Psalm Reading

### Psalm 95:6–11 (KJV)

*6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.*

*7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,*

*8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*

*9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.*

*10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:*

*11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.*

## Commentary

Hardened hearts will reject warnings of sinful activities, this is why God calls His people to listen *today*. Any obedience that is delayed often becomes obedience denied forever. The longer we wait to be obedient the harder our hearts become and the less likely we are to confess our transgressions and surrender.

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## Hymn: “Faith of Our Fathers”

By Frederick W. Faber (1849)

1.

*Faith of our fathers, living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!*

**Refrain:**

*Faith of our fathers! holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!*

2.

*Faith of our fathers, we will strive  
To win all nations unto Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
Mankind shall then be truly free.*

**Refrain**

3.

*Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife;  
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how  
By kindly words and virtuous life.*

**Refrain**

4.

*Faith of our fathers, we will be true  
To thee in life and death alike;  
And if our lives be tried by fire,  
Still in Thy name we will not strike.*

**Refrain**

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## Family Application Points

### 1. **Speak Truth Clearly**

Silence is not faithfulness. God calls His people to speak truth even when it is uncomfortable or unwelcome. Love does not hide danger from others; it warns of it. A faithful household values obedience to God over approval from others.

2. **Warn in Love**

Correction is mercy, not cruelty. God warns because He desires life, not destruction. Families must learn to correct one another with clarity, with patience, and with purpose - seeking restoration and obedience, not humiliation.

3. **Accept Accountability**

Leadership carries responsibility. Those entrusted with authority (especially fathers and parents) are accountable before God for what they allow, tolerate, or even ignore. Faithful leadership takes ownership of the direction, discipline, and spiritual health of those under them.

4. **Respond Personally**

Each heart must choose repentance. No one is saved or restored by association. Every family member must hear God's warning and respond in humility, obedience, and faith.

5. **Guard the Home**

A faithful household watches and warns. Just as a watchman guards a city, families must protect their homes from influences, habits, and attitudes that lead toward destruction. Vigilance is an act of love.

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 **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

Faithful God, who warns and preserves Your people, we thank You for Your mercy and truth. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Teach our family to listen when You speak, to warn when danger rises, and to love enough to speak truth. Guard our home, soften our hearts, and lead us in the way of life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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 **Closing Prayer**

Lord, You are righteous in all Your ways and merciful in all Your warnings. Make our family faithful watchmen - willing to speak truth, quick to repent, and humble enough to listen. Remove fear that leads to silence, and replace it with love that leads to obedience. Guard our home from hardened hearts, and help us walk faithfully before You in every season. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.