There is turmoil everywhere they turn. Their city is gone. The temple has been destroyed. People have died. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day (Ezekiel 24:2). God had said that He would take away their stronghold "the joy of their pride, the desire of their eyes and their heart's delight" (Ezekiel 24:25-27) but said that some would escape to bring news of the devastation.

Jeremiah warned them. Jeremiah 7:3-7 told them to amend their ways and He would let them dwell in this place. Don't trust in deceptive words saying the temple, the temple, the temple. Their trust was to be in God alone, not in the temple that was His dwelling. But they clung to the temple and they abandoned God and His ways, opting instead for the gods of the nations that surrounded them.

How easy it was for them to become distracted by the world! It is just as easy for us. That is why we need watchmen on the wall.

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

Today we turn the corner in the book of Ezekiel. The first 32 chapters were all about the judgment that was falling on Judah (Israel) and the surrounding nations. There were glimmers of hope, a promise of restoration sprinkled throughout, but it was certainly a dark time for Judah. When all seemed lost, Jerusalem destroyed the temple gone, we move into the final 16 chapters. A future restoration is coming, a promise of a united kingdom, in their own land, with God being their God. Hearing these words at this point in time of their history must have been like finding an oasis in the middle of the Sahara Desert.

Study on and see how Ezekiel's words can be an encouragement to you as well.

- 1. Observe Ezekiel 33. Mark all your key words. Make sure that you take your time and don't miss any. This is the most important step in your study! Observe! Observe!
- 2. Summarize each paragraph and fill them in below and on your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. 33:1-6
 - b. 33:7-9
 - c. 33:10-16

	e. 33:21-22
	f. 33:23-29
	g. 33:30-33
Re	cord what you learn by marking the following key words.
	a. Ezekiel
	h the recole
	b. the people
	c. the land

d. 33:17-20

3.

4.	Record a chapter theme on your	Observation	Worksheets	and on you	ur "At a Gl	ance"
	Chart.					

- 5. Let's answer a couple of questions to keep you in context.
 - a. Where was Ezekiel while he was prophesying?
 - b. During what year and which siege was he taken captive?
 - c. When did the events of this chapter occur?
 - d. How do the events of this chapter compare to the timing of chapter 24?
- 6. What do you learn about the character of God in this chapter? How has this study to this point (including chapter 33) helped you know that He is God?

7. Read Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:6-11. There is a reason for studying the Old Testament. What are those reasons according to these verses and what parallels do you see in Ezekiel's time and the life we live today. Does it help you to understand your role in the culture you live in today? Record your insights.

DAY 3

1.	Observe Ezekiel 34.	As you do mark all your prev	vious markings (keeping your eye
	on the Lord, nations,	the land, and time indicators.	In this chapter you want to mark
	(so don't add these to	your key word card):	

- a. shepherds
- b. Flock, sheep (as you marked people in chapter 33)
- c. live or dwell securely
- d. David (he is mentioned here and in 37 as well)
- 2. Record paragraph themes.
 - a. 34:1-6
 - b. 34:7-10
 - c. 34:11-16
 - d. 34:17-19
 - e. 34:20-22
 - f. 34:23-24
 - g. 34:25-31
- 3. What do you learn about the phrase "then you will know that I am the Lord?"

4. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 34 in your Observation Worksheets and "At A Glance" chart.

5. Think again about the timing of the message in chapter 33 and 34. How did this bring hope and encouragement to the exiles in Babylon? How can it bring hope and encouragement to us today?

DAY 4

We saw that Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were contemporaries of one another. Jeremiah was recording the events for the Jerusalem perspective. Daniel and Ezekiel were both taken as prisoners to Babylon, Daniel in the first siege and Ezekiel in the second. It would be good to view these events from each one's perspective.

There are events that must take place before the Messiah sets up His kingdom on earth when Christ will be worshiped and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

1. Yesterday, you marked the shepherds of Israel. Record what you learn about them.

2.	Now we are going to look at what Jeremiah has to say about the shepherds. Read the following passages and record what you learn about them.
	a. Jeremiah 3:12-18 (Why are shepherds important?)
	b. Jeremiah 10:21 (How are they described?)
	c. Jeremiah 23:1-6 (Do you see similarities with Ezekiel 34?)
	d. Jeremiah 25:30-38 (How is a shepherd defined? Do you think that it only applies to Israel or are there other applications?)
	e. Jeremiah 50:6-7 (How important are the leaders to a country, a nation, a people?)

3.	What did you learn from marking the Lord throughout Ezekiel 34?
4.	Let's take a look at the shepherds and their sheep from a New Testament perspective. Read these passages and record all that you learn and how it relates to Ezekiel 34. a. Matthew 2:4-6
	b. Matthew 26:31-33
	c. John 10:11-18
	d. John 10:24-30
	e. Hebrews 13:20-21

5.	Time for some application from these chapters.
	a. Do you believe that God has called you (me, all Christians) to be a watchman on the wall to our world as Ezekiel was commanded to be for Israel?
	b. How is that going to be lived out in your life? What will you (and I) need to be willing to do?
	c. What did it look like in Paul's life? Read Acts 20:17-32 to answer that question.
	d. How are you personally doing as a watchman?

6. If you have time, you can see what the commentaries have to say about Ezekiel

33-34.

DAY 5

- 1. Ezekiel 35 is only 15 verses long, so start today by reading it straight through. Don't mark anything, just read.
- 2. You are going to read this through again, but this time you are going to mark Mount Seir. You have marked this before, you just called it something else. Take a look at the map.

You should be able to see that Mt. Seir is Edom. Mark this as you did Edom in Ezekiel 25.



- 3. Now read through Ezekiel 35 again marking all your key words. Watch for
 - time references, *blood or bloodshed* which you have marked before as well as the *therefore/because* pattern that you marked back in chapters 25 onward. There are a couple of new ones to be marking in this chapter.
 - a. desolate/desolation
 - b. mountains of Israel
- 4. Work on paragraph themes.
 - a. 35:1-9
 - b. 35:10-15
- 5. Record a theme for Ezekiel 35 on the "At a Glance" chart and your Observation Worksheets.

6.	Take a look at some of the key words that you marked in Ezekiel 35. Record what you learn from marking Mount Seir - What will happen here, why, and when?
7.	Now let's compare Ezekiel 35 with some other passages. Record how they relate to each other.
	a. Ezekiel 25:12-14 (Edom comes from Esau, son of Isaac, Jacob's brother (Genesis 25:19-34)
	b. Obadiah (Yes, the whole book - it is only one chapter with 21 verses)
8.	How can you apply what you have learned to your life? Knowledge without application just puffs up. Your goal should be to allow God's Word to deeply penetrate your heart and thoughts and allow His Spirit to change you by transforming your mind so that you may walk in a manner pleasing to Him.
9.	You can see what your commentaries say about Ezekiel 35.