

THE KEY OF DAVID

Tomorrow's News
Today

TRANSCRIPT – (0816) EZEKIEL 33 – Ezekiel 33 - How to Get to Know God

VOICEOVER:

The Key of David with Gerald Flurry

GERALD FLURRY:

Greetings, everyone. Ezekiel chapter 33 is a pivotal prophecy in the Old Testament, and it's much like Matthew chapter 24 in the New Testament, which is the single greatest prophecy in the New Testament. But Ezekiel chapter 33, like Matthew 24, is an end-time prophecy for today—*for today*. It is for this time we're living in right now, and verse 29 of Ezekiel 33 says that *Israel does not know God*. Israel does not know God. Now, who is Israel? Well, the good news is, Israel is going to get to know God; though, if they don't repent they're going to learn and get to know Him in a very *painful* way—the most painful way—but they are going to get to know God; and God says in this chapter that He will nurture and protect those people who deliver His message. That is spiritual Israel, but that's not the nations of Israel. But He will protect them and look after them, and there's even more good news. Ezekiel 33 tells you *how to get to know God*. Now, it first says, well, Israel doesn't know God, and this world doesn't know God. They don't know *who and what God is*, as astounding as that may sound. But here in Ezekiel 33, one chapter, really, tells you *how to get to know the living God*—how to get to know Him, and have Him in your life *every single day*, and what an *awesome* blessing that is.

The little flock, God says, is the only group of people that *know* Him. Though most people don't believe that, that's what your Bible says and clearly says *this whole world is deceived*, including religion. Well, God has a solution to all that, and He wants to give it to all of us, and He *is* going to give it to all of us, and we want to make it as easy on ourselves as we possibly can. But God says there would be a *watchman* here when this *all* unfolds—all the trouble unfolds—in this end time. Let's take a look at that in verse 7 of Ezekiel 33.

Verse 7. **So [you], 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.** Addressing Israel.

Here you can see that God is addressing Israel, and there's going to be a man come on the scene with a warning, and God *commands* that man to hear the Word of God at *God's own mouth*, which is really right here. Christ told us to live by every word of God, and He clearly meant the Old and the New Testament; so if we know God, we're also going to know God's *watchman*. Now, do you know God? Now, we have a booklet we'll offer you at the end of this program that will show you this is *all* end time prophecy. It's very easy to prove, but Israel *does not know God*; and so I want to give you some points today on how to get to know God, or how to know God, and the first one being: if you know God, you'll know *who* His watchman is. Obviously, you have to first know God if you're going to know who the watchman is.

The second point is: If you know God, you're going to know this Book. You're going to know the Bible that comes from God's mouth. You're going to understand that warning from God.

Now, we have a 36-Lesson Correspondence Course, and I don't know of anything on this earth to compare with it when it comes to understanding this Book. That's what it's designed to do, is to help you to understand this Book, the Bible. And I hope you'll enroll in it. It's absolutely free, as all of our literature is, and it will teach you *how to get to know God* in a very systematic way—day after day, week after week, and month after month. You will begin to understand the Word of God that comes right from *God's mouth*. Now, what could be a greater blessing than that? The word “watchman” just means to like “look, and look out, and bending forward, and stretching and straining to try to understand what's happening,” and let God show him what's happening so he can *watch* and *warn* the people. That's what the watchman is supposed to do.

So, the third point here is: If you know God, you must know who Israel is. I mean, God is saying here that Israel doesn't know God, but *who is* Israel? Well, we've been teaching that for years, and our book on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* will make that as clear as any subject in the Bible could be; and frankly, it is the single greatest subject in the Bible, and certainly the greatest single proof that God exists; so you need to understand that as well.

But notice verses 8 and 9. **⁸When 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;**

He's talking about death.

...but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Is this a serious warning? Oh, is it ever!

Verse 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;**

That's repeated.

...but thou hast delivered [your] soul.

So now, it's talking about Israel dying if they don't hear this message, and it's talking about the church *dying*, or those people that don't get this message out are going to *die* in this end time. Now, I can't think of a stronger warning than that, and I don't think probably you can either. But here is another point you need to understand: If you know God, you will support His Work. You see, again, we're talking about physical life and death, and in some cases *spiritual* death, because people do not do God's Work. So, again, can you think of a stronger warning in the Bible when God says, "If you don't do that Work, if you don't get this message out, their blood is on your head." In other words, you're going to die. I mean, these are strong words from the living God. It makes that clear here that this is from the *mouth of the living God*, and we *must* take it seriously or we'll *never* understand God.

You can look at verses 3 through 9—six verses—and it mentions of the word "warn" eight times. Eight times. This is a *warning* message. It's about *warning* and *warning* and *warning*. God always *warns*. He loves us. He wants to avoid these catastrophes we face, and these problems we face in this world, and He *warns* and He *warns* and He *warns*; and it's our own fault if we don't heed that warning. He says, "Look, if this little flock warns, then I will protect you. You'll save your life." But those people that don't heed the warning, well, you know what's going to happen. I mean, it really is a terrifying warning. He says they're going to *die* in their iniquity. That word means "law-less-ness." What is that? Well, I John 3 and verse 4 says, "...*sin is the transgression of the law.*" That's what sin is. How many people know what sin is?

Let me give you another point. This is actually point 5. If you know God, you know what sin is. You know what *sin* is. Did you know this world doesn't know what sin is? How many people believe—*believe*—the Bible when it says in I John 3 and verse 4 that "*sin is the transgression of the law*"—The Ten Commandments? How many people believe that?

Notice verse 10 of this chapter. **Therefore, O [you] son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, *If our transgressions...***

Transgressions of what? Well, *the law*.

...if our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we *pine* away in them, how should we then live?

Are we just going to pine away in our sins? We really do have a lot of problems in this world and in the U.S. and Britain, and we have some serious problems. Notice what was written in the *Wall Street Journal* online, March 17, 2008 where it says, "*The Buck Stops Where?*" "*In the credit market panic that began in August, we have now reached the point of maximum danger: A global run on the dollar that could become a rout. As the*

Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee prepares to meet tomorrow, this should be its major concern." What does that mean? This is certainly, I think, the leading business journal in the world. What does it mean if the dollar run becomes a rout? How serious *is* that problem, and would you think that maybe we might need some help? Would you agree that the economy is, well, it's shaky? What is going to be the outcome? Well, we could know, and it could be good, and it could be *great!* It could be just a stupendous success *if* we get help from God. But what if we don't?

Look at the presidential campaign. It looks like some serious racial problems. How are we going to solve that? How are we going to solve our crime problems that we see about on TV *every week*? God says "*blood touches blood*" every week—bloody week after bloody week—and all these crimes, and we don't know how to solve it. How do you solve that problem? How do you solve all of the divorce and rampant adultery and illicit sex and pornography and all of these problems?

God says as these things happen, we just *glut* ourselves with pleasure—sports and entertainment and all of that. We just *glut* ourselves with it, and we love pleasure more than we love God, it says in the New Testament. That's our problem—a big part of it. Of course, any one of those problems can destroy a nation—any one of them can. Notice, though, when it talks about "*transgressions*" in verse 10—again, "*transgressions of the law.*" But He says the problem is, we're just *pinning* away in our sins, just like we're sinking down in quicksand, and it's just getting worse and worse and worse. And what are we going to do to *solve* those problems? What are you and I going to do? You see, God wants us to *live*, to really have a wonderful *life* like He has. He wants us to *live!* But how are you going to solve these problems if you're just "*pinning away*" in your sins—just "*pinning away*," just sort of "*rotting away*?" What are we going to do? Well, there's only one solution. I mean, wherever you look—north, east, south, or west—you see serious problems; but there's a solution. There *is* a solution, and it's coming whether we want it or not, but the solution ought to come now and save us a ton of suffering. That's what ought to happen. But there is a solution. Let me show you what it is, and if we know God, we'll know what that solution is.

Notice verse 11. **Say unto them, As I live, saith the [Eternal] God — as I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn...**

Here's where God has pleasure.

...but that the wicked TURN from his way and LIVE: *turn ye, turn ye* from your evil ways; for why will ye *die*, O house of Israel?

He's talking about the *death of nations*, if you understand who Israel is. He says He doesn't have any pleasure in that, and He wants us to *live*. Turn, turn, turn—mentioned three times—and LIVE! LIVE! Really learn to *live* and *love* life and be *excited* about life. This whole world is deceived, though. They don't know how to *turn* to God. Did you know that? They don't even *know*. Repentance is a gift, and this world worships the Devil. (II Corinthians 4:4)

But let me give you another point. Number six: If you know God, you know what true repentance is. If you know God, you know what true repentance is. It's *turning* away from evil and *to* God the Father, the Head of the Family. Repentance is toward God.

Now, we have a little booklet on that, and you need to understand it. We're not going to go any place until we turn, turn, turn, or until we learn repentance God's way; and it has to do with life and death physically and life and death eternally. But most people have never known God, and God is going to make sure they get a chance to know Him. Though they may suffer a lot first, He's going to make sure of that. But again, we need to understand who Israel is, and what this *all* means when you're talking about *knowing God*.

The word "trumpet" is mentioned four times here in these verses—verses 3 through 6—and there's a trumpet message. A *Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine tells you about those problems all the time. Why is it that we, Israel, ought to *know* God? Well, ancient Israel is the only people who've ever been led by God—only nation to ever be led by God, though today they are comprised of nations. But also, Israel should know to repent because they've had such a *strong warning message*. God has *warned* them and *warned* them and *warned* them for well over 70 years now; and God says it is coming; it is coming, and it's coming fast. And now, we can all begin to see it in a way we couldn't, say 10 or 15 years ago. You can see the problems all around you; and God even says that 50% of His own people are going to even lose their eternal lives because they *knew* God and then turned away; and all of that is unnecessary if we get to *know* God. None of those *evil* turns need to be taken, and shouldn't be taken, and God wants *all* of us to be saved physically and spiritually. Do you know God?

Notice verse 28 and 29. **For I will lay the land most desolate,**

Whoa! What a strong warning!

...and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that NONE shall pass through.

How bad is that?

Verse 29. **Then shall they KNOW that I am the [Eternal], when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their *abominations* which they have committed.**

Israel doesn't know God.

See, God is holding Israel accountable because they've had this past history with Him, and He's giving them strong warnings, time and time again, when He hasn't given other nations strong warnings; and so, He's going to punish them *first* if they don't heed. This is what God says. This is God's Word, and you may say, "Well, that's just Old Testament." But I'll tell you, there're over a hundred prophecies about this very catastrophe in both the Old and the New Testament. So, it's not just this chapter at all.

But I'll tell you, there is another point here. God says He will punish us until we lose our land if don't wake up—and our lives, in most cases.

But let me give you another point, number seven: If you know God, you know He uses nations, strong nations, to punish Israel. But you'd better learn who Israel is. I mean, He talks about "*the pomp of her strength*"—this is a nation in this end time—nations really, three of them to be exact, that God is talking about specifically—that have *strength* and *power*. They have this "*pomp*" and kind of a glorify in their strength, but God says He's going to break their *will* to the point that they will fear using it because of our sins. That's what He says; and listen, this is God's Word; it's not *my* word. It's not *my* word. I'm just telling you what God's Word is. It's Old and New Testament, and you can easily prove that from our Ezekiel booklet that we'll give you—free. It won't cost you anything.

Notice verse 30. **Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people *still* are talking [about you...]** (It should read) **...by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the [Eternal.]**

It's *there*. Some people *know* it's there, and they *know* they're hearing the Word of God. They *know*, and they *talk* about it, and they *discuss* it and say, "Come on, and hear what God has to say." They *know* it's coming from God. They *know* that! Can you imagine that? Can you understand the hardness of human nature? They actually *know* this is coming from God, but you know what it goes on to say? They *will not* do it. They will not obey. How's that for hardness in our human nature—*knowing* it's coming from God? Just like some people KNEW that Christ was sent from God in heaven and still killed Him. Can you imagine that? That's what it says in the Epistle of John. They *knew* He was *a man come from God*—that is, Christ—and they still killed Him. That's awfully hard. You see, that's the nature that you and I have, that all of us have, that we have to overcome and conquer.

Point number eight: People who know God *know* and overcome *human nature*. They *know* it and *understand* it and they *overcome* it. But notice verse 31. Here it's telling us what their problem is. Verse 31. **And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their *mouth* they show much *love*, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.**

Well, what do you know? They sit there *as God's people* and hear the words of God and *know* that these are the words of God, and they *still won't do it*.

Let me give you another point, number nine: Those who know God hear God's Word and *apply* it—and *apply* it. They're *doers* of the Word. It talks about covetousness here. They talk about *love* all the time, but covetousness is the last of The Ten Commandments; and we'll have a booklet on ***The Ten Commandments*** and explain all that to you if you want to order that as well; but these people talk about love all the time, but they don't know

what the love of God is. I John 5 and verse 3 says **...this IS this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.** But they talk about a *false* love.

So let me give you point number ten: Those who know God *know* what true love is, that it's keeping the Commandments. Who believes that today?

Notice verse 32. **And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.**

They just *won't do them!* They hear them, but they won't do them: and God says, okay, those people of His own church are going to really be punished for that, but He is talking about *blood*. He's talking about *dying*. He's talking about the strongest kind of warning.

Verse 33. **And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they KNOW that a prophet hath been among them.**

They're going to *know* that a prophet has been among them. How about that? They don't learn *before*, though; that's the problem. You see, if you know God—point number eleven—if you know God, you know who His prophet is BEFORE the catastrophe, not afterwards. Not afterwards! You see, *all* these prophecies of the Bible have to be delivered to you—have to be delivered by a man that God does prepare and give this revelation, and give an understanding of this prophecy, and hear the Word at God's mouth, and go out and warn and understand who Israel is and warn them. Well, he has to be given all this understanding by God; and lo, this is all coming. It's coming. It is coming, and you can go on and read in the next chapter, and God says He's actually going to resurrect DAVID to rule over Israel. I mean, this is the good news. This is the great news, and all of them are going to receive that. But why don't we receive it today and avoid all that suffering?

Until next week, this is Gerald Flurry.

Goodbye, friends.

VOICEOVER:

Request our free booklet, *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*. The Prophet Ezekiel will have lived in vain if God's true Church doesn't proclaim his message today! The book of Ezekiel is clearly an end-time message. It reveals specific prophetic events that are happening right now in the United States, Britain and many other English-speaking nations. Ezekiel also reveals that these nations are headed for the worst crisis ever known. But it is all a part of God's master plan to usher in the wonderful Kingdom of God. Herbert W. Armstrong taught the prophecies of Ezekiel in a general way for many years.

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