

Responding to God's Word
Ezekiel 33:21-33

Main Point:

Since God always fulfills His Word, never ignore it but hear and obey it.

1. God's Word is always fulfilled.
2. God's Word should never be ignored.
3. God's Word must be heard and obeyed.

Ezekiel 24:25-26 25 “And you, son of man—*will it not be* in the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that on which they set their minds, their sons and their daughters: 26 on that day one who escapes will come to you to let *you* hear *it* with *your* ears; (NKJV)

Iain Duguid "The news of the destruction of Jerusalem was a paradigm shaking reality. It was as if the sky had fallen on their heads."

Christopher Wright “The news of the fall of Jerusalem vindicated once and for all Ezekiel’s claim to be bringing the genuine words of Yahweh ...”

Daniel Block “He could finally assume the normal role of a prophet, interceding on the people’s behalf before Yahweh and offering messages of hope for the future. So long as the temple and the city had stood, these basic functions had been denied him.”

Ezekiel 12:25 25 For *I am* the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass ... (NKJV)

Iain Duguid "Those who remain behind in Judah, inhabiting the ruins of God's judgment, see the situation as an opportunity for economic gain rather than personal and societal repentance."

Derek Thomas “The problem with this slogan is that the people who cited it were unfit to dwell in Jerusalem. They claimed allegiance to Abraham, but failed to comply with the ethical demands of Abraham’s faith.”

Leviticus 26:21-25 21 “... If you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. 22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate ... 25 And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. (NKJV)

Iain Duguid "People may have been humming along to his tune, but they are paying no attention to the true meaning of his lyrics."

Christopher Wright “We so easily substitute the form of religion for the power of radical, life-changing obedience to the demands of the kingdom of God.”

Derek Thomas “Sermons need a discipline of delivery, to be sure, but they need just as surely a discipline of listening - a listening with a view to obedience.”

WLC 160 Q. What is required of those that hear the Word preached? A. It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.