

Ezekiel 33:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?

Analysis

"Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?" The exiles' question expresses despair: if sin's consequences are irreversible, how can we survive? God's answer (verse 11) offers hope through repentance. This demonstrates that divine judgment aims toward restoration, not mere punishment. The Reformed emphasis on God's mercy appears: judgment's purpose is revealing sin's seriousness and driving sinners to repentance. Despair over sin should lead to gospel hope, not fatalistic resignation.

Historical Context

After Jerusalem's destruction (585 BC), surviving exiles felt crushed by guilt. The question "how should we then live?" expressed genuine despair. Jeremiah's Lamentations captures this overwhelming grief. God's response through Ezekiel offered hope: genuine repentance brings restoration. The exile taught that sin brings severe consequences, but God's mercy transcends deserved judgment. This sustained Jewish faith through diaspora and prefigures gospel message: though sin deserves death, God offers life through repentance and faith.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How should awareness of sin's seriousness drive you toward gospel hope rather than despair?
2. What is the relationship between genuine guilt over sin and confident hope in God's mercy?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה בָּן אָדָם לְאַמְرָה אֶל בַּתְּהֻרְבָּה
H859 Therefore O thou son of man Thus ye speak unto the house
H1121 H120 H559 H413 H1004

פְּשָׁע יְנֻנוּ לְאַמְרָה לְאַמְרָה כִּי יִשְׁבָּא ל
of Israel H3651 Thus ye speak Thus ye speak H3588 If our transgressions
H3478 H559 H559 H6588

אֵין יְמֵנָה וְעַל יְנֻנוּ אֶבְןָה וְבָמְלָאָה וְעַל יְנֻנוּ וְפָטָאָה יְנֻנוּ
and our sins H5921 H0 H587 be upon us and we pine away H4743 H349

בְּחִיה:
in them how should we then live
H2421

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:14 (Parallel theme): But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

Ezekiel 37:11 (References Israel): Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Ezekiel 24:23 (Parallel theme): And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Ezekiel 4:17 (Sin): That they may want bread and water, and be astonished one with another, and consume away for their iniquity.

Leviticus 26:39 (Sin): And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

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