

# Ezekiel 33:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; 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?

## Analysis

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One of Scripture's most important declarations of God's heart: 'Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; 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?' The oath formula 'As I live' (chai-ani, חַיְ אָנִי) invokes God's own eternal existence as guarantee of truth. The emphatic 'I have no pleasure' (im-echpotz, יְמַנְּאָנִי—literally 'if I delight,' used rhetorically to mean 'I do not delight') reveals God's heart. He desires repentance and life, not judgment and death. The repeated imperative 'turn ye, turn ye' (shuvu shuvu, שׁוּבוּ שׁוּבוּ) expresses urgent pleading—God intensely desires human repentance. The rhetorical question 'why will ye die?' shows the tragedy is self-inflicted—death results from refusing offered life.

## Historical Context

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This oracle came after Jerusalem's fall (586 BC) when exiles faced despair. Many concluded their situation was hopeless—if God had judged Jerusalem so severely, what hope remained? This word reassures that even post-judgment, repentance opens the door to life. God's character doesn't change—He still calls for turning and offers life. The watchman commission renewed in chapter 33 (parallel to chapter 3) shows Ezekiel's ministry shifts from warning of judgment to offering

hope of restoration. Historical prophets consistently presented both judgment and hope, never judgment alone. God's oath by His own life (since nothing greater exists to swear by, Hebrews 6:13) guarantees this truth: He desires repentance and life.

## Related Passages

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

1. How does God's repeated, urgent call to 'turn, turn' reveal His passionate desire for your repentance and life?
2. What does this passage teach about whose fault it is when people experience spiritual death?

## Interlinear Text

אָמַר	רְאֵם	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר
<b>Say</b>	H413	<b>unto them As I live</b>	H589	<b>saith</b>	<b>the Lord</b>	<b>GOD</b>			H518
H559		H2416		H5002	H136	H3069			

שׁ וּבֹא	אָמֵן	כִּי	רְשָׁעָה	בָּמָوت	אֲחִפָּז	
I have no pleasure	in the death	but that the wicked	H3588	H518	turn	

בְּשַׁע	מִדְרָכֵיכֶם	שְׁבוּ	שְׁבוּ	וְחִי הַ	מִדְרָכֵיכֶם	בְּשַׁע
but that the wicked	from his way	and live	turn	turn	from his way	
H7563	H1870	H2421	H7725	H7725	H1870	

בְּ יְהֻדָּה וְבְּ שְׂרָאֵל:	בְּ יְהֻדָּה וְבְּ שְׂרָאֵל:	בְּ יְהֻדָּה וְבְּ שְׂרָאֵל:	בְּ יְהֻדָּה וְבְּ שְׂרָאֵל:	בְּ יְהֻדָּה וְבְּ שְׂרָאֵל:
ye from your evil	H4100	for why will ye die	O house	of Israel
עַל מַה תִּמְתַּחֲלָה יְמִינְךָ	H4101	לְמַתְתַּחַת כָּלְבִּיךָ	H1004	H3479

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 2:4** (Parallel theme): Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**Ezekiel 18:23** (Evil): Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

**2 Peter 3:9** (References Lord): The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**Acts 3:19** (References Lord): Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**Proverbs 8:36** (Parallel theme): But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

**Proverbs 1:23** (Parallel theme): Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

**Hosea 14:1** (References God): O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

**Jeremiah 3:22** (References God): Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

**Ezekiel 14:6** (References God): Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

**Hosea 11:8** (References Israel): How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.