

# 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, חַי־אֲנִי) invokes God's own eternal existence as guarantee of truth. The emphatic 'I have no pleasure' (im-echpotz, יִמְעַפּוֹתֵז—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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

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

## Study Questions

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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

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אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	נֹאֵם	אֶל־נִין	חֵי	אֵלֶיהֶם	אָמַר
Say	the Lord	saith	GOD	unto them	As I live	H413	H559
	H136	H5002	H3069		H2416		
שׁ וְבוֹ	אֵם	כִּי	רָשָׁע	בְּמֹת	אֶחָפֶץ		
turn			but that the wicked	in the death	I have no pleasure		
H7725	H518	H3588	H7563	H4194	H2654		
מִדֶּרְכֵיכָם	שׁ וְבוֹ	וְחַיֵּה	שׁ וְבוֹ	מִדֶּרְכֵיכָם	רָשָׁע		
from his way	turn	and live	turn	from his way	but that the wicked		
H1870	H7725	H2421	H7725	H1870	H7563		
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	בֵּית	תָּמָה וְתוֹ	וְלָמָּה	הֲרָעָה יִם			
of Israel	O house	for why will ye die	for why will ye die	ye from your evil			
H3478	H1004	H4191	H4100	H7451			

## 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.