

# Ezekiel 33:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

## Analysis

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This passage emphasizes both the possibility and necessity of genuine repentance. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but desires they turn and live (Ezekiel 33:11). This reflects the Reformed understanding that while salvation is entirely by grace through faith, it necessarily involves repentance—turning from sin to God in trust and obedience. True conversion produces transformed living, not merely intellectual assent to doctrine. The call to repentance demonstrates God's mercy even amid judgment, offering escape to those who truly turn from rebellion. This principle refutes both presumption ("I'm elect, so my behavior doesn't matter") and despair ("I've sinned too much to be saved")—both errors Ezekiel's audience faced.

## Historical Context

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This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּחֶקֶת זֹת	יִשְׁלַם	גִּזְלָהּ	רָשָׁע	יִשְׁיב	חֶבֶל ל
give again	that he had robbed	If the wicked	restore	the pledge	
H7999	H1500	H7563	H7725	H2258	
יְהִי־הֵ	עַל־	עַשׂ זֹת	לִבְלֹתִי	הֵלֶךְ	הַחַיִּים
he shall surely	iniquity	without committing	walk	of life	
H2421	H5766	H6213	H1115	H2416	H1980
יְהִי־הֵ	לֹא	יָמוּת:			
he shall surely	he shall not die				
H2421	H4191	H3808			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 20:11** (Parallel theme): And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

**Luke 19:8** (Parallel theme): And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

**Psalms 119:93** (Parallel theme): I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

**Ezekiel 18:7** (Parallel theme): And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;

**Leviticus 18:5** (Parallel theme): Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

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