

Ezekiel 33:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Ye eat with the blood, and lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood: and shall ye possess the land?

Analysis

This verse articulates God's righteous judgment against persistent sin and rebellion. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates God's holiness and justice—He cannot overlook sin but must judge it. The passage shows both the necessity of judgment (God's character demands it) and its purpose (to vindicate His holiness, demonstrate sin's seriousness, and turn people from destruction). Understanding divine judgment helps us grasp gospel grace: Christ bore the judgment we deserved, satisfying God's justice while extending mercy to all who trust in Him (Romans 3:25-26). God's judgment isn't arbitrary or cruel but righteous response to covenant violation and moral rebellion.

Historical Context

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

עַל יְהוָה אֲדֹנָי אֲמַר רַחֵם אֱלֹהִים כֹּה אֲמַר רַחֵם לָכֵן
H3651 Wherefore say H413 H3541 Wherefore say the Lord H3068 H5921
H559 H136

וְיָדֹם גְּלוּלֶיךָ אֶל תִּשָּׂא וְעֵינֶיךָ תֹאכֶל לוֹ וְיָדֹם
blood Ye eat your eyes and lift up H413 toward your idols blood
H1818 H398 H5869 H5375 H1544 H1818

וְהָאֶרֶץ תִּירָשׁוּ: תִּשְׁפֹּךְ כּוֹ
and shed the land and shall ye possess
H8210 H776 H3423

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 9:4 (Blood): But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Deuteronomy 12:16 (Blood): Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

Ezekiel 22:6 (Blood): Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood.

Ezekiel 22:27 (Blood): Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

Ezekiel 18:6 (Parallel theme): And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman,

Leviticus 3:17 (Blood): It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.