

Ezekiel 33:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye stand upon your sword, ye work abomination, and ye defile every one his neighbour's wife: 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

אֶת	וְאֵל	תוֹעֵבָה	הַ	עֲשִׂיתָ	חֶרֶבְךָ	עַל	עֲמִידָתְךָ
	ye stand	abomination		ye work	upon your sword		
H853	H5975	H8441		H6213	H2719	H5921	
תִּירְשׁוּ:	וְהָאָרֶץ	טִמְאַתְךָ	רֵעֵהוּ	אִשְׁתְּךָ			
and shall ye possess	the land	and ye defile	his neighbour's	wife			
H3423	H776	H2930	H7453	H802			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 27:40 (Word): And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

Zephaniah 3:3 (Parallel theme): Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.