

# Ezekiel 33:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence.

## 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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## 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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אָנָּי לְתִי הֵ יְהוָה אָדָּנִי אָמָּר כִּי אָלָּה מֵאָמָּר כִּי  
H3541 Say H413 H3541 Say the Lord GOD As I live H589  
H559 H136 H3069 H2416

אָמָּר לֹא אָשָׁר בְּחִרְבּוֹת בְּכָבְדַּכְּבָד יְהוָה  
H518 H3808 H834 surely they that are in the wastes by the sword shall fall H2723 H2719 H5307

עַל יָאָשָׁר גִּנִּי בְּשָׂדֶה לְתִי הֵ נְתִיתִי  
H834 H5921 and him that is in the open field As I live will I give H2416 H5414

לֹאָכְלָן וּבְמִעֵר וְתִי בְּמִצְדָּה וְתִי בְּכָבְדַּכְּבָד  
to be devoured H834 and they that be in the forts and in the caves H4679 H4631

בְּדַק בָּר יִמְوتָה  
of the pestilence shall die H1698 H4191

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 42:22** (Word): Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go and to sojourn.

**1 Samuel 13:6** (Parallel theme): When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

**Ezekiel 39:4** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.