

# Ezekiel 33:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through.

## Analysis

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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

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics 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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אָא אַל וְנִשְׁבַּת וְמִשְׁפַּת הַשְׁמַמָּה הַאֲרַץ אֲתָּא אַנְתָּתִי  
For I will lay the land desolate most shall cease and the pomp  
H5414 H853 H776 H8077 H4923 H7673 H1347

מֵאַי יִשְׁרָאֵל עַל הַר וְאֶשְׁתָּמֵם וְאֶשְׁתָּמֵם וְאֶשְׁתָּמֵם  
of her strength shall be desolate and the mountains of Israel  
H5797 H8074 H2022 H3478 H369

עַזְבָּר:  
that none shall pass through  
H5674

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 7:24** (Parallel theme): Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.

**Jeremiah 44:22** (Parallel theme): So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.

**Jeremiah 44:2** (References Israel): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein,

**Jeremiah 44:6** (Parallel theme): Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as at this day.

**Ezekiel 6:14** (Parallel theme): So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

**Ezekiel 24:21** (References Israel): Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieh; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

**Micah 7:13** (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.