

# Ezekiel 33:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.

## 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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**1 John 4:8** — God is 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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וַיֵּדְעוּ	כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	בְּתַתִּי	אֶת
<b>Then shall they know</b>	H3588	H589	<b>that I am the LORD</b>	<b>when I have laid</b>	H853
H3045			H3068	H5414	
הָאָרֶץ	שְׁמֵמָה	וְרַשְׁמָה	עַל	כָּל	תּוֹעֲבֹתֶיהָ
<b>the land</b>	<b>desolate</b>	<b>most</b>	H5921	H3605	<b>because of all their abominations</b>
H776	H8077	H4923			H8441
אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ:				
H834	<b>which they have committed</b>				
	H6213				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 6:7** (References Lord): And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.