

# Ezekiel 33:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

## 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 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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וְהִנֵּךְ	לְךָ	רִא	כִּי	עָתָּה	וְ
H2005	H0	<b>song</b>	<b>And lo thou art unto them as a very lovely</b>		
		H7892		H5690	
וְ	אֵיךְ	הָ	לְ	וְ	אֵם
<b>of one that hath a pleasant</b>	<b>voice</b>	<b>and can play well</b>	<b>on an instrument</b>	<b>for they hear</b>	
H3303	H6963		H2895	H5059	H8085
אַתָּה	אֵיךְ	מִ	דְּבָרָךְ	בְּ	וְ
H853	<b>thy words</b>	<b>but they do</b>	H369	H853	
	H1697	H6213			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 6:20** (Parallel theme): For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

**John 5:35** (Parallel theme): He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

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