

1 Samuel 14:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat them with the blood.

Analysis

And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat them with the blood.

The consequence of Saul's oath: 'the people flew upon the spoil' and ate animals 'with the blood.' Extreme hunger from enforced fasting drives the people to violate Levitical law (Leviticus 17:10-14). Saul's attempt at extraordinary piety produces actual sin. The Hebrew *ya'at* ('flew') pictures ravenous desperation. The king's oath designed to secure divine favor instead causes his people to transgress divine command. Legalistic excess often produces the opposite of its intention.

Historical Context

Levitical law prohibited consuming blood because 'the life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11). Proper slaughter required draining blood completely. The people's hasty eating of insufficiently bled animals violated fundamental dietary law.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do extreme religious requirements sometimes produce the very sins they seek to prevent?
2. What is the connection between unhealthy deprivation and subsequent excess?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ H6213	וְהָעָם H5971	אֶל H413	שָׁלַל H7998	וַיִּקַּח ו H3947	צֹאן H6629	בָּקָר H1241
	And the people		upon the spoil	and took	sheep	and oxen
וּבָנֵי י H1121	בָּקָר H1241	וַיַּשְׁחֲטוּ H7819	אֶת הָרֶצָה H776	וַיֹּאכַל H398	וְהָעָם H5971	
and calves	and oxen	and slew	them on the ground	did eat	And the people	
עַל H5921	הַדָּם: H1818					
	them with the blood					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 3:17 (Blood): It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.

1 Samuel 15:19 (Parallel theme): Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

Genesis 9:4 (Blood): But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Deuteronomy 12:16 (Blood): Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

Leviticus 19:26 (Blood): Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

Acts 15:20 (Blood): But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

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