

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

בְּקָרֶצֶת אֶל שָׁלָל וְעַמּוֹן
H6213 And the people H413 upon the spoil and took sheep and oxen
H5971 H7998 H3947 H6629 H1241

וְבָנָיו וְבָקָר וְשָׂעִיר אֶת רֶצֶת
and calves and oxen and slew them on the ground did eat And the people
H1121 H1241 H7819 H776 H398 H5971

עַל בְּקָרְמָן
H5921 them with the blood
H1818

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.