

1 Samuel 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

Analysis

The abuse escalates further. Not content with boiled meat, the priests demanded raw flesh for roasting before the fat was burned to God. Levitical law required burning the fat first (Leviticus 3:3-5) as the LORD's portion - the 'food of God' (Leviticus 3:11). By seizing meat before this sacred offering, the priests literally took what belonged to God Himself. They prioritized their culinary preferences ('he will not have sodden flesh...but raw') over divine commands. Their appetites trumped obedience; their comfort superseded God's explicit instructions.

Historical Context

The burning of fat was non-negotiable in Israelite sacrifice (Leviticus 3:16-17; 7:23-25). Fat represented the best portion and was reserved exclusively for God. Consuming fat was forbidden to Israelites under penalty of being 'cut off' from the people.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. In what ways might believers today take for themselves what rightfully belongs to God?
2. How do personal preferences sometimes override clear biblical commands in your life?

Interlinear Text

גַּם H1571	בָּטָרֵם H2962	יִקְטֹר וְעַל H6999	אֶת H853	הַחֵלֶב H2459	וָאֵן H935	נָעַר H5288
		Also before they burnt		the fat	came	servant
לַכֹּהֵן H3548	וַאֲמַר H559	לְאִישׁ H376	הַזֹּבֵחַ H2076	תֵּן H5414	בָּשָׂר H1320	לְעֹלֹת H6740
for the priest	and said	to the man	that sacrificed	Give	flesh	to roast
לַכֹּהֵן H3548	וְלֹא H3808	יֵקֶחַ H3947	מִמֶּנּוּ H4480	בָּשָׂר H1320	מְבֻשָּׂה H1310	אִם H3588 H518
for the priest		for he will not have		flesh	sodden	
	חַיִּי H2416					
	of thee but raw					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 3:16 (Sacrifice): And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S.

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Philippians 3:19 (Parallel theme): Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

