

Deuteronomy 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.

Analysis

The command: 'Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.' This reiterates verses 16 and 23. Threefold repetition emphasizes importance. Pouring blood 'as water' indicates complete disposal—blood must return to earth, symbolizing life returning to God who gave it. The simplicity of command ('pour it out') makes obedience accessible—no complex ritual required, just respectful disposal. This applies whether at sanctuary (sacrificial blood) or home (non-sacrificial slaughter). Universal application across contexts shows the principle transcends specific circumstances.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition developed shechita (ritual slaughter) partly from this command, ensuring maximal blood drainage. Kosher laws govern slaughter to this day. The act of pouring blood out, rather than consuming or discarding carelessly, instills reverence for life. This daily practice of respect for animal life cultivated respect for human life, fundamental to covenant ethics. The principle: how we treat animal life reflects our understanding of life's sanctity.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does respectful treatment of animal life relate to respect for human life?
2. What daily practices could cultivate reverence for the life God has given?
3. How do modern food practices (factory farming, casual consumption) reflect or violate principles of life's sanctity?

Interlinear Text

ל א נאכל כו על ב א ר ז שפכ כי כחים
H3808 Thou shalt not eat H5921 it upon the earth H776 it thou shalt pour H8210 as water H4325

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