

# Deuteronomy 28:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them.

## Analysis

**Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof.**

Ancient Israel's agricultural economy depended on oxen for plowing and threshing—watching your ox slaughtered without benefiting demonstrates absolute powerlessness. Shachat (שָׁחַט, slain) indicates ritual or violent slaughter, here by enemies who confiscate livestock as spoils of war.

**Thine ass shall be violently taken away** uses gazal (גָּזַל, seized by violence), emphasizing robbery with impunity. **Thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies** means total economic devastation—livestock represented wealth, inheritance, and livelihood. **And thou shalt have none to rescue them** (ein moshia, אֵין מוֹשִׁיעַ) indicates no deliverer—the ultimate abandonment under covenant curse when God Himself becomes Israel's enemy rather than defender.

## Historical Context

Moses pronounced this circa 1406 BC. When Babylon besieged Jerusalem (586 BC), the invaders confiscated all livestock as Jeremiah 52:17-23 records. Earlier, during Assyrian invasions (8th century BC), Israel's northern kingdom suffered identical livestock confiscation, fulfilling this curse precisely.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What does watching your ox slain without eating it reveal about powerlessness under divine judgment?
2. How does having "none to rescue" demonstrate that covenant judgment removes human deliverers?

## Interlinear Text

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שׁוֹרְךָ Thine ox H7794	טָב וַח shall be slain H2873	לְעֵינֶיךָ before thine eyes H5869	וְלֹא אֶ H3808	תֹאכַל and thou shalt not eat H398	מִמֶּנּוּ H4480
מִמֶּרְךָ thereof thine ass H2543	וְגַז וּלְ shall be violently taken away H1497	מִלִּפְנֵי יְיָ from before thy face H6440	וְלֹא אֶ H3808		
וְשׁוֹב and shall not be restored H7725	לְךָ H0	צֹאֲנֶיךָ to thee thy sheep H6629	נִתְּנָה וְתִ shall be given H5414	לְאֹיְבֶיךָ unto thine enemies H341	
וְאֵין H369	לְךָ H0	מוֹשִׁיעַ: and thou shalt have none to rescue H3467			

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