

Deuteronomy 28:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Analysis

So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

The Hebrew meshugga (מַשְׁׁעָגָה, driven mad) derives from the same root as verse 28's "madness"—here specified as madness caused by witnessing horrors. The phrase **for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see** emphasizes traumatic visual experiences: watching family members killed, children starving, cities burning.

This psychological torment exceeds physical suffering—the mental anguish of helplessly witnessing atrocities drives covenant-breakers to insanity. Lamentations 2:11 captures this: "Mine eyes do fail with tears, mine liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and sucklings swoon in the streets of the city." Jeremiah reported mothers eating their own children during the siege (Lamentations 4:10)—sights that would drive anyone mad.

Historical Context

Moses spoke this circa 1406 BC. During the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (586 BC), Josephus and biblical accounts describe starvation, cannibalism, and mass slaughter that traumatized survivors. The horrors witnessed during the siege fulfilled this curse literally, driving many to psychological breakdown.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does witnessing atrocities constitute a distinct form of judgment beyond physical suffering?
2. What does madness from traumatic sights reveal about covenant curse affecting mind as well as body?

Interlinear Text

וְתִּתְּבַּשֵּׂל	מִשְׁאָה	עַל	מִפְרָא	הַ	עִינֵּךְ	רַ	אָשָׁ
H1961	So that thou shalt be mad	H7696	for the sight	H4758	of thine eyes	H5869	H834

תְּרַא אֲהָן:
which thou shalt see
H7200

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