

Deuteronomy 28:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.

Analysis

So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat—the repetition hammers home the horror: a man eating his own children and refusing to share. The phrase *mibbəśar bānāyw* (מִבְשָׁר בָּנָי), 'from the flesh of his sons') is grammatically precise—Moses uses no euphemism. **Because he hath nothing left him in the siege** explains but doesn't excuse: starvation has made him subhuman.

This continues verse 54's description. The refined man becomes worse than an animal—animals feed their young; this man devours his. The threefold repetition ('his brother... wife... remnant of children') shows the complete breakdown of covenant, marriage, and family—all the fundamental structures of society collapse. Sin's ultimate end is self-cannibalization.

Historical Context

This verse didn't need multiple historical fulfillments—the fulfillments in 2 Kings 6, Lamentations 4, and Josephus's accounts are sufficient to demonstrate its prophetic accuracy. The Dead Sea Scrolls and Josephus confirm that first-century Jews knew these curses and feared their fulfillment under Rome.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does sin ultimately consume everything it touches, including its own adherents?
2. What does this passage teach about the logical endpoint of covenantal unfaithfulness?
3. In what ways does Christ satisfy our deepest hungers so we don't turn to destructive alternatives?

Interlinear Text

מִתְתַּחַת	לֹאַמְתָּן	מִבְשֵׁר	בָּנִים
So that he will not give	to any	of them of the flesh	of his children
H5414	H259	H1992	H1121
אֲשֶׁר	מִבְלֵי	הַשְׁאֵר	כִּלְלָזִים
H834	H1097	H7604	H3605
whom he shall eat	because he hath nothing left		
H398			
בְּמִצּוֹר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲצִיק	לְבָ
him in the siege	and in the straitness	H834	H0
H4692	H4689	H6693	
אִיבָּב	בְּכָל	שַׁעֲרֵיכֶן	
wherewith thine enemies	H3605	thee in all thy gates	
H341		H8179	