

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 *mibbēśar bānāyw* (מִבְּשָׂר בָּנָיו, '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

כִּנּוּי	מִבֶּשֶׁר	מִהֶם	לְאֶחָד	מִתְּתֵן
of his children	of them of the flesh	H1992	to any	So that he will not give
H1121	H1320		H259	H5414
כֹּל לֹל	הַשְּׂאִיר	מִבֶּלִי	יֹאכֵל	אֲשֶׁר
H3605	H7604	H1097	H398	H834
	because he hath nothing left		whom he shall eat	
H0				
לֵב	יִצְיֹק	אֲשֶׁר	וּבְמַצֹּק	בְּמַצֹּר
H0	H6693	H834	H4689	H4692
	shall distress		and in the straitness	him in the siege
שְׁעָרֶיךָ:	בְּכָל	אֲיִבֶךָ		
H8179	H3605	H341		
thee in all thy gates		wherewith thine enemies		