

# Deuteronomy 28:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

## Analysis

**The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground**—the Hebrew *ha'ānuggāh wəharakkāh* (הַעֲנוּגָה וְהַרַכָּה) describes an aristocratic lady so refined she never walked barefoot, perhaps carried in a litter. Yet **her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter**—she too becomes a grudging cannibal.

This verse is the female parallel to verses 54-55, showing that wealth, gender, and privilege offer no protection from sin's degradation. The most pampered woman, symbol of motherly nurture, will violate the deepest maternal instinct. The phrase 'husband of her bosom' (*îš ḥêqāh*, אִישׁ חֵיקָה) emphasizes intimate marital love—now replaced by cannibalistic greed.

## Historical Context

Josephus's account of Mary of Bethzuba (Wars 6.3.4) fulfills this precisely—a wealthy woman who ate her nursing infant during the Roman siege. Her story is so horrifying that it became legendary, demonstrating that these curses were not hyperbole but literal prophecy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage destroy any notion of inherent human goodness apart from God's grace?
2. What does the equal treatment of male and female in judgment teach about accountability before God?
3. How does the image of a mother devouring her child contrast with God's maternal care (Isaiah 49:15)?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	אִשָּׁה	וְהֵעֲנִיגָהּ	בְּרֵךְ	הַרְבֵּה
H3808	H834	and delicate	H0	The tender
		H6028		H7390
עַל	הֵצִיג	בְּגָלָהּ	כָּף	נִסְתָּה
H5921	H3322	of her foot	the sole	woman among you which would not adventure
		H7272	H3709	H5254
עֵינָהּ	יָתֵב	וְיִמְרָן	מִהֶתְעַנֵּיג	הָאָרֶץ
H5869	H7489	and tenderness	for delicateness	upon the ground
		H7391	H6026	H776
וּבִתָּהּ:	וּבְרֵנָהּ	חִיקָהּ	בָּא	יָשׁ
and toward her daughter	and toward her son	of her bosom	toward the husband	
H1323	H1121	H2436	H376	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 28:54** (Evil): So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

**Isaiah 3:16** (Parallel theme): Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

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