

Deuteronomy 32:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

Analysis

Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs—Moses recounts God's extravagant provision using Hebrew *ḥem'at bāqār* (cream/curds of cattle) and *ḥālāv ḥōn* (milk of flock). **Rams of the breed of Bashan** references the renowned pastureland east of Jordan known for prime livestock (Ezekiel 39:18, Amos 4:1). The metaphor of drinking **the pure blood of the grape** (דָמָעֵת, *dam-'ēnāb*) is poetic imagery for finest wine, not literal blood.

This verse catalogs covenant blessings—agricultural abundance, livestock prosperity, and luxury goods—demonstrating that Israel's rebellion (v.15-18) was not born from deprivation but from prosperity. The imagery anticipates Jesus's eucharistic language of bread and wine representing covenant relationship.

Historical Context

The Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32) was composed circa 1406 BC as prophetic testimony against Israel's future apostasy. Bashan, conquered under Moses (Numbers 21:33-35), became proverbial for agricultural excellence. This verse establishes the contrast: God's lavish faithfulness versus Israel's ingratitude.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does material prosperity sometimes lead to spiritual complacency in your own life?
2. What does God's generous provision to rebellious Israel reveal about His character and grace?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵילִים כָּרִים כָּרִים וְאֵילִים
Butter of kine and milk of sheep with fat of lambs and rams
H2529 H1241 H2461 H6629 H5973 H2459 H3733 H352

בָּשָׂר כָּלִי וְתִלְבְּשׁ כָּלִי וְתִלְבְּשׁ כָּלִי וְתִלְבְּשׁ
of the breed of Bashan and goats with fat of kidneys of wheat blood
H1121 H1316 H6260 H5973 H2459 H3629 H2406 H1818

עַתָּה תְּשַׂתְּחַם רְמַרְמָרָה
of the grape and thou didst drink the pure
H6025 H8354 H2561

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 49:11 (Blood): Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

Psalms 147:14 (Parallel theme): He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.

Psalms 81:16 (Parallel theme): He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

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