

Ezekiel 16:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey—The threefold provision (solet סֶלֶת, finest flour; shemen שֶׁמֶן, oil; debash דְּבַשׁ, honey) recalls the Promised Land's abundance (Deuteronomy 32:13-14). God supplied covenant blessings, yet **thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour** (רִיחַ נִיחֹחַ, reach nichoach)—the technical term for sacrifices pleasing to YHWH (Leviticus 1:9).

The horror: Israel offered God's provision to Baal and Asherah as reach nichoach, deliberately using covenant language for idolatrous worship. This parallels the Corinthian error of eating idol-meat (1 Corinthians 10:18-21)—you cannot drink the Lord's cup and demons' cup. **Thus it was, saith the Lord GOD**—divine testimony confirms Jerusalem's judicial guilt.

Historical Context

The grain, oil, and honey offerings to Baal and fertility goddesses were documented in Hosea 2:8 and condemned throughout the prophets. Excavations at Canaanite high places reveal burnt offering remains of agricultural products mixed with incense, confirming these syncretistic practices permeated Judean worship.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what ways might modern believers use God's material blessings to serve idols (consumerism, status, pleasure)?
2. How does Paul's teaching on food offered to idols apply to using God's gifts in morally compromised situations?

Interlinear Text

וּדְבַשׁ	וַיֵּשׂ מֶן	סֵלֶת	לִי	וַנִּתֵּן יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	וּלְחֶמִי
and honey	and oil	thee fine flour	H0	also which I gave	H834	My meat
H1706	H8081	H5560		H5414		H3899
וַיְהִי	נִיחַם	לֵרֵי יִם	לִפְנֵיהֶם	וַנִּתֵּן יְהוָה	הָאֲכָלָתִּי	יְהוָה
H1961		savour	it before	also which I gave	wherewith I fed	
	H5207	H7381	H6440	H5414	H398	
יְהוָה:	אֲדָנִי	נָא	וְ			
GOD	the Lord	and thus it was saith				
H3069	H136	H5002				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:13 (Parallel theme): Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.