

# Ezekiel 22:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.

## Analysis

**In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood**—shochad laqu'u (שֹׁחַד לְקַחוּ), 'bribes they took,' corrupting justice to enable murder (Deuteronomy 27:25). **Thou hast taken usury and increase** (neshek ve-tarbit, נֶשֶׁךְ וְתַרְבִּית), two Hebrew terms for interest forbidden between covenant brothers (Leviticus 25:35-37), exploiting vulnerable debtors.

**Thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion** (vatebats'i re'eki be-oshek, וְתִבְצָעִי רַעְכִּי בְעֶשֶׂק),—violent profit-taking. The climax: **And hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD** (ve-oti shachakht, וְאֹתִי שָׁכַחְתָּ). Economic injustice isn't merely social failure but theological apostasy—forgetting God who redeemed slaves (Leviticus 25:42, 55).

## Historical Context

These economic crimes plagued late Judean society. Jeremiah condemned similar practices (Jeremiah 22:13-17), and Amos had earlier indicted the northern kingdom for identical violations (Amos 2:6-8). Debt slavery, land seizures, and judicial bribery created a brutal economy contradicting Jubilee principles. Jerusalem's market reflected Canaanite values, not Sinai covenant.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How is economic exploitation presented as fundamentally theological—'thou hast forgotten me'—rather than merely ethical?
2. What does the connection between bribery, usury, and bloodshed reveal about the systemic nature of injustice?

## Interlinear Text

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שֶׁחַד	לָקַחְתֶּם חַתָּה	וְרָחַקְתֶּם	לִפְנֵי עֵינַי	שֶׁפַךְ	דָּם	נֶשֶׁךְ
gifts	In thee have they taken			to shed	blood	usury
H7810	H3947		H0	H4616	H8210	H1818
						H5392
וַתִּרְבֵּי יֵת	לָקַחְתֶּם חַתָּה	וַתִּבְצַע יְיָ				רֵעֵי יְיָ
and increase	In thee have they taken	and thou hast greedily gained				of thy neighbours
H8636	H3947	H1214				H7453
בְּעַל שֶׁקֶר	וְאַתָּה יְיָ	שָׁכַחְתָּ	נָא	אֲדָנִי יְיָ		יְהוָה:
by extortion		and hast forgotten	me saith	the Lord		GOD
H6233	H853	H7911	H5002	H136		H3069

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 27:25** (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.

**Ezekiel 23:35** (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

**Psalms 15:5** (Parallel theme): He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

**Psalms 106:21** (References God): They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

**Jeremiah 2:32** (Parallel theme): Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

**Deuteronomy 16:19** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

**Deuteronomy 23:19** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury:

**Ezekiel 18:13** (Blood): Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.

**Ezekiel 18:8** (Parallel theme): He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man,