

# Ezekiel 22:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself.

## Analysis

**"Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself."** Jerusalem's twin crimes—bloodshed and idolatry—bring judgment. "Sheddeth blood in the midst" (shofekhet dam be-tokha, שׁׁפְךַת דָם בְּתוֹךְהָא) indicates violence at the city's heart, not periphery. "Maketh idols against herself" shows self-destructive folly—idolatry harms the worshiper. The phrase "that her time may come" (lavo ittah, לֹבֵא עַתָּה) indicates these sins hasten judgment's arrival.

## Historical Context

Jerusalem's bloodshed included judicial murders, oppression of vulnerable populations, and child sacrifice (verses 6-12). The idolatry defiled the very temple meant for Yahweh worship (Ezekiel 8). These accumulated sins 'brought near' the day of judgment—sin accelerates its own consequences. When Babylon conquered, it was neither random nor disproportionate but precise response to specific, enumerated crimes.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does sin being 'against herself' illustrate its self-destructive nature?
2. What does hastening judgment's arrival teach about sin's role in accelerating consequences?
3. In what ways do bloodshed and idolatry remain connected sins in contemporary culture?

## Interlinear Text

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דְּמָם	שָׁפֵךְ	כַּתָּה	עַיְרָה	יְהוָה	אָדָן	אָמַר	כִּי	אָמַר	דְּמָם
<b>Then say</b>	H3541	<b>Then say</b>	H559	<b>the Lord</b>	H136	<b>GOD</b>	H3069	<b>The city</b>	H5892
H559		H559		H136		H3069		H8210	
עַל יְהָה	גָּלוֹל יִם	וַעֲשָׂתָה	הַעֲמִידָה	לְבָב וְאַ	בְּתוֹךְ הַ	עַתָּה הַ	עַתָּה הַ	שָׁפֵךְ כַּתָּה	דְּמָם
<b>in the midst</b>	H8432	<b>may come</b>	H935	<b>of it that her time</b>	H6256	<b>and maketh</b>	H6213	<b>idols</b>	H1544
									H5921
לְטַמְּאָה:									
<b>against herself to defile</b>									
	H2930								

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 22:27** (Blood): Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.