

# Ezekiel 22:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood.

## Analysis

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**"Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood."** Leadership corruption heads the catalog of sins. "Every one" (ish, אִישׁ) emphasizes individual participation—not isolated cases but systematic abuse. "To their power" (lezero'o, לְזֵרֵעוֹ, "according to his arm/strength") indicates leaders used authority for violence rather than justice. This indicts those with greatest responsibility and privilege for worst covenant violations.

## Historical Context

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Judah's final kings and princes were notoriously corrupt (Jeremiah 22; Ezekiel 22:25-29). They oppressed poor, took bribes, shed innocent blood, and led the people into idolatry. Archaeological evidence and biblical records confirm systemic leadership failure contributing directly to national collapse. When leaders model covenant violation, entire nations follow into judgment.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does leadership corruption accelerate corporate judgment?
2. What does 'to their power' teach about greater accountability for those with greater authority?
3. In what ways should leaders recognize their influence in either leading toward or away from judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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הִנֵּה	נָשִׂיאַ י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	אֵשׁ יֵשׁ	לְזָרְעוֹ	הָיָה יוֹ
H2009	Behold the princes	of Israel	every one	were in thee to their power	H1961
	H5387	H3478	H376	H2220	
וְ	לִמְעַן	שָׂפַךְ	דָּם:		
H0	H4616	to shed	blood		
		H8210	H1818		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 1:23** (Parallel theme): Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

**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.