

# Ezekiel 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In thee are men that carry tales to shed blood: and in thee they eat upon the mountains: in the midst of thee they commit lewdness.

## Analysis

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**In thee are men that carry tales to shed blood**—anshei rakil (אֲנָשֵׁי רָכִיל), 'men of slander,' who use false testimony to execute innocent people (cf. 1 Kings 21:10-13, Naboth's murder). Legal systems corrupted by perjury produce judicial bloodshed.

**In thee they eat upon the mountains** refers to idolatrous feasts at high places, combining false worship with ritual meals. **In the midst of thee they commit lewdness** (zimmah, זִמָּה)—premeditated sexual wickedness, often linked with Canaanite fertility cults. Jerusalem's center hosted what should have been peripheral sins, inverting the city's moral geography.

## Historical Context

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Eating 'upon the mountains' recalls Israel's recurring high-place worship (1 Kings 14:23, 2 Kings 17:10). Despite Josiah's reforms (621 BC), these practices resumed under Jehoiakim and Zedekiah. Archaeological excavations at Tel Arad and other sites confirm incense altars and figurines from this period, physical evidence of syncretistic worship.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

### Study Questions

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1. How do false witness and bloodshed demonstrate the social consequences of breaking the ninth and sixth commandments together?
2. What modern equivalents exist for 'eating upon the mountains'—mixing worship with cultural practices that compromise covenant loyalty?

### Interlinear Text

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אֲנָשִׁים י	כִּי יֵל	הָ יִי	בְּ הַ	לִמְעַן	שִׁפְךָ	דָּם	וְאֵל
In thee are men	that carry tales	H1961	H0	H4616	to shed	blood	H413
H582	H7400				H8210	H1818	
הַהָרִים	אֶכְלוּ	בְּ הַ	זִמָּה	עָשׂוּ			
upon the mountains	and in thee they eat	H0	lewdness	of thee they commit			
H2022	H398		H2154	H6213			
בְּתוֹכָהֶם:							
in the midst							
H8432							

### Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 4:14** (Parallel theme): I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.

**Leviticus 19:16** (Blood): Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

**Hosea 4:2** (Blood): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

**Hosea 4:10** (Parallel theme): For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

**Ezekiel 16:43** (Parallel theme): Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.

**Ezekiel 18:6** (Parallel theme): And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman,

**Ezekiel 18:11** (Parallel theme): And that doeth not any of those duties, but even hath eaten upon the mountains, and defiled his neighbour's wife,