

Ezekiel 24:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For her blood is in the midst of her; she set it upon the top of a rock; she poured it not upon the ground, to cover it with dust;

Analysis

Her blood is in the midst of her; she set it upon the top of a rock—the metaphor shifts from the rusty pot (verses 3-6) to Jerusalem's brazen display of bloodguilt. Blood poured **upon the top of a rock** (על-צְחִית סָלָע, al-tzechiach sela) remains visible, unabsorbed, crying out. By contrast, **she poured it not upon the ground, to cover it with dust**—violating Leviticus 17:13's command to cover shed blood with earth.

The uncovered blood symbolizes Jerusalem's unrepentant violence (Ezekiel 22:3-4). While Leviticus covered sacrificial blood out of reverence for life (נֶפֶש, nefesh), Jerusalem flaunted innocent blood, displaying murder proudly. Genesis 4:10 warns: 'Your brother's blood cries to me from the ground.' Jerusalem's blood screams from exposed rock, demanding divine vengeance.

Historical Context

Pre-exilic Jerusalem saw epidemic violence: child sacrifice in Hinnom Valley (Ezekiel 16:20-21), judicial murders, prophets killed (Matthew 23:37). Rather than hidden shame, these crimes were committed openly ('upon a rock'), often in religious contexts—making them sacrilege. The blood imagery culminates in Jesus's pronouncement: 'Upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth' (Matthew 23:35).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does society today display 'blood on the rock'—normalized violence that cries out for justice?
2. What does covering blood with dust teach about humility toward life and accountability for death?

Interlinear Text

כִּי בְּתוּךְ הַדָּמָה עַל כֶּתֶם יְמִינָה
H3588 For her blood is in the midst H1961 H5921 it upon the top H6706 H5553
H1818 H8432

לֹא שָׁפַךְ תָּהָר עַל בָּאָז לְכַס וְתָ
H7760 H3808 H8210 H5921 H776 H3680
of her she set she poured it not upon the ground to cover

עַל יְמִינָה עַפְרָה: עַל יְמִינָה
H5921 H6083
it with dust

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 17:13 (Blood): And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.

Deuteronomy 12:16 (Blood): Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

