

Ezekiel 32:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war: and they have laid their swords under their heads, but their iniquities shall be upon their bones, though they were the terror of the mighty in the land of the living.

Analysis

And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised—In Sheol's geography, warriors are ranked. Egypt's slain will not lie with גְּבוּרִים (gibbōrîm) נְפָلִים מִשְׁרָלִים (nēphēlîm) 'mighty fallen ones from the uncircumcised')—ancient warriors of renown.

Which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war: and they have laid their swords under their heads—Ancient warriors buried with weapons, swords under heads as pillows—honor in death. **But their iniquities shall be upon their bones**—Despite martial honor, עֲוֹנוֹתָם (ăwōnōtām, 'their iniquities') remain. **Though they were the terror of the mighty in the land of the living**—חַתִּית (hittît) gibbōrîm, 'terror of warriors')—feared in life, judged in death. Egypt won't even receive this dubious honor; her warriors are relegated to lower ranks in Sheol.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern warrior burials included weapons—archaeological evidence from multiple cultures. The practice reflected belief in afterlife status. Ezekiel uses contemporary burial customs to depict Sheol's hierarchy: even in death, there are

ranks. Egypt's disgrace is complete—not merely dead, but dishonored even among the dead. This would devastate Egyptian pride rooted in elaborate afterlife beliefs.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does Sheol's hierarchy (honored vs. dishonored dead) teach about divine justice?
2. How does Egyptian afterlife theology make this judgment especially cutting?
3. What do iniquities 'upon their bones' teach about sin's permanence without atonement?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	וְשָׁכְבָו	אֶת	גָּבֹרִים	נִפְלָיִם
H3808	And they shall not lie	H854	of the mighty	that are fallen
	H7901		H1368	H5307
וְאַשְׁר	מַעֲרָלִים	וְיָרְדוּ	שָׁאָל	בְּכָלִים
of the uncircumcised	H834	which are gone down	to hell	with their weapons
	H6189	H3381	H7585	H3627
מִלְחָמָת	וְתַּעֲשֵׂנִי	אֶת	פֶּתַח	בְּאַשְׁרֵיכֶם
of war	and they have laid	H853	their swords	under their heads
H4421	H5414		H8478	H7218
וְתַּהֲרֵתָם	עַל	עַצְמֹתָם	כִּי	
but their iniquities	H5921	shall be upon their bones	H3588	
H1961	H5771		H6106	
חַתְּתִית	בָּאָרֶץ	גָּבֹרִים	פִּים:	
though they were the terror	H1368	in the land	בְּאֹהֶל	
H2851		H776	H2416	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 109:18 (Parallel theme): As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.

Job 20:11 (Parallel theme): His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.

Ezekiel 32:21 (Word): The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell with them that help him: they are gone down, they lie uncircumcised, slain by the sword.