

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 גִּבּוֹרִים נָפְלִים מֵעִרְלִים (gibbôrîm nōphēlîm mē'ārēlîm, '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**—חֲתִית גִּבּוֹרִים (ḥittîṭ gibbôrîm, '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 יִשְׁכְּבוּ	אֶת גִּבּוֹרֵי יָם	נָפְלֵי יָם	
H3808 And they shall not lie H7901	H854 of the mighty H1368	H5307 that are fallen	
מִמַּעַרְלֵי יָם	אֲשֶׁר יִרְדּוּ	שָׁא וְלֹא	בְּכֻלֵּי
H6189 of the uncircumcised H834	H3381 which are gone down	H7585 to hell	H3627 with their weapons
מִלְחֲמָתָם	וַיִּתְּנוּ	אֶת חֶרְבֹתָם	תַּחַת רֹאשֵׁיהֶם
H4421 of war	H5414 and they have laid	H853 their swords H2719	H8478 under their heads H7218
וַתֵּהָיֵא	עֲוֹנוֹתָם	עַל עַצְמוֹתָם	כִּי
H1961 but their iniquities H5771	H5921 shall be upon their bones H6106	H3588	
חֶת יֵת	גִּבּוֹרֵי יָם	בְּאֶרֶץ חַיִּים	חַיִּים:
H2851 though they were the terror	H1368 of the mighty	H776 in the land	H2416 of the living

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.