

Ezekiel 39:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

Analysis

Ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken—This graphic imagery intensifies the sacrificial feast metaphor. The Hebrew *achlu chelev lasova* (אָכַלְתֶּם חֵלֶב לְשִׂבֹּעַ, "eat fat to satiation") and *shethitem dam lashikaron* (שִׁתִּיתֶם דָּם לְשִׁכָּרוֹן, "drink blood to drunkenness") uses covenantal prohibition (Leviticus 3:17, 7:23-27 forbid consuming fat and blood) to underscore the profane nature of this judgment.

The scavenger feast violates Torah, emphasizing these are not covenant sacrifices but divine wrath. **My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you** repeats from verse 17, the possessive pronoun emphasizing God's sovereign orchestration. This is not chaos or accident but Yahweh's deliberate judgment-sacrifice. The abundance imagery (satiation, drunkenness) depicts complete, overwhelming victory leaving nothing of God's enemies except memorial testimony.

Historical Context

Blood and fat were specifically reserved for God in Israelite sacrificial system (Leviticus 3:16-17, 17:10-14), making their consumption by scavengers deeply ironic. What should have been offered to God becomes carrion for vultures, signifying these warriors died outside covenant blessing.

Ancient warfare often featured birds and beasts consuming battlefield dead (1 Samuel 17:44,46; 1 Kings 14:11), considered the ultimate disgrace—denial of

proper burial indicated divine curse. For exilic readers, this promised reversal: instead of Israel's corpses feeding scavengers (Jeremiah 7:33, 16:4), their enemies would suffer this fate. This eschatological imagery shapes Revelation 19:17-21, where birds gorge themselves on God's defeated enemies at Christ's return.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does God use imagery violating His own Torah (consuming blood and fat) to describe judgment on covenant-breakers?
2. How does the completeness of this feast ("till full," "till drunken") demonstrate the finality of God's judgment against persistent rebellion?

Interlinear Text

וְאָכְלֶתֶם	חֵלֶב	לְשֹׂבַע הַ	וְשֵׁת יֵתֶם	דָּם	לְשֹׁכַר וְ
And ye shall eat	fat	till ye be full	and drink	blood	till ye be drunken
H398	H2459	H7654	H8354	H1818	H7943
מִזְבִּחִי	אֲשֶׁר	זָבַחְתִּי	לָכֶם:		
of my sacrifice	H834	which I have sacrificed	H0		
H2077		H2076			
