

# Jeremiah 19:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them.

## Analysis

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The most horrific judgment: "And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them." This describes siege-induced cannibalism—starvation so severe that covenant curses are literally fulfilled (Lev 26:29, Deut 28:53-57). Parents eating their own children represents the absolute depths of human degradation.

This wasn't hyperbole but literal prophecy, fulfilled during the Babylonian siege (Lam 2:20, 4:10, Ezek 5:10). The horror demonstrates how completely sin unravels civilization and humanity. What began with sacrificing children to Molech ends with desperate parents eating their starved children for survival. Sin always escalates, destroying what it initially claimed to preserve. The progression from idolatry to injustice to cannibalism shows rebellion's logical end.

This passage's horror should drive us to Christ, who endured God's wrath so we would never face such judgment. The depths of covenant curse reveal the magnitude of Christ's saving work—He bore infinite wrath to deliver us from these horrors. Reformed theology emphasizes penal substitutionary atonement—Christ suffered the covenant curses we deserved (Gal 3:13), including God-forsakenness (Matt 27:46), so believers inherit covenant blessings through faith.

## Historical Context

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Siege-induced cannibalism occurred during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (Lam 2:20, 4:10) and again during the Roman siege in AD 70 (Josephus, Wars 6.3.4). Archaeological evidence from besieged ancient cities sometimes reveals evidence of desperate survival practices. These horrific historical realities validate biblical prophecy's accuracy and demonstrate human depravity's depths when societal structures collapse under judgment. The warnings stand as eternal testimony to sin's consequences.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does this extreme judgment reveal both the seriousness of sin and the depth of Christ's saving work?
2. What does the progression from idolatry to this horror teach about sin's escalating nature?
3. How should awareness of the covenant curses Christ bore motivate gratitude and obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַכְלָוּ	אֶת	בָּשָׂר	בְּנֵי	מִן	בָּשָׂר	וְאַתְּ
And I will cause them to eat	H853	and the flesh	of their sons	H853	and the flesh	H1320
	H398		H1121			
בְּנֵתֶיהָ מִן	וְאַיְשָׁנָה	בָּשָׂר	הַרְעֵה	וְאַכְלָוּ	וְאַכְלָוּ	
of their daughters	H1323	every one	H376	and the flesh	of his friend	And I will cause them to eat
			H1320		H7453	H398
בְּמִצְורָה	וְקָרְבָּנָה	וְבָמָצָרָה	וְאַשְׁר	לֹא	לֹא	
in the siege	H4692	and straitness	H4689	shall straiten	H834	H0
					H6693	
אַבִּיהָ מִן	וּמִבְּקָשָׁה	וּמִבְּקָשָׁה	נִפְשָׁתָם			
wherewith their enemies	H341	and they that seek	H1245	their lives	H5315	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 9:20** (Parallel theme): And he shall snatch on the right hand, and be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand, and they shall not be satisfied: they shall eat every man the flesh of his own arm:

**Leviticus 26:29** (Parallel theme): And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

**Lamentations 4:10** (Parallel theme): The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

**Ezekiel 5:10** (Parallel theme): Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds.

**Lamentations 2:20** (Parallel theme): Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?

