

Jeremiah 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.

Analysis

God commands, 'Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.' This ironic statement means: since your offerings are unacceptable to me, you might as well consume them yourselves. Burnt offerings were supposed to be wholly consumed on the altar for God; God tells them to treat them like peace offerings where portions were eaten. This demonstrates that without obedience, their worship is worthless. The irony cuts deeply: religious observance they thought pleased God is so meaningless He tells them to eat it themselves. This anticipates Jesus's teaching that God desires mercy not sacrifice (Matthew 9:13, citing Hosea 6:6).

Historical Context

Despite moral corruption, Judah maintained elaborate temple worship with expensive sacrifices. This created false confidence that ritual observance compensated for ethical failures.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How can religious rituals become substitutes for genuine obedience?
2. What does this verse teach about God's priorities in worship?
3. How should we evaluate whether our worship is acceptable to God or merely formal observance?

Interlinear Text

עַל־זִבְחָךְ	מִ	יְשָׁרָאֵל	אֱלֹהִים	אֲבֹתֶיךָ	וְהַיְתָה	אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	the God	of Israel	your burnt offerings
H559		H3068	H6635	H430	H3478	H5930
בָּשָׂר: וְאַכֵּל וְזִבְחָךְ מִעַל סְפִּינָה						
Put	H5921	unto your sacrifices	and eat	flesh		
H5595		H2077	H398	H1320		

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 8:13 (Sacrifice): They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

Jeremiah 6:20 (Sacrifice): To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.