

Job 39:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are,
there is she.

Analysis

God concludes the eagle section with a stark image of predatory success. 'Her young ones also suck up blood' (aph-ephroach ya'au dam, אֶפְרוּחַי יִשְׁעוּ-דָּם) describes eaglets consuming bloody prey brought by parents—a vivid picture of nature's harsh realities. 'Where the slain are, there is she' (ba-asher chalalim, בְּאֶשֶׁר חָלָלִים) points to eagles gathering at battlefields and places of death. This verse, quoted by Jesus in Matthew 24:28 and Luke 17:37 regarding judgment, carries eschatological significance. The eagle's instinctive movement toward death becomes a metaphor for divine judgment's certainty and swiftness. What appears merely natural—eagles feeding on carrion—actually testifies to God's design and foreshadows His final judgment where spiritual eagles gather for the great supper of God (Revelation 19:17-18). The verse's gruesomeness reminds us that God's creation includes both beauty and terror, both providence and judgment.

Historical Context

Eagles were observed following armies and gathering at battlefields to feed on the slain, making them associated with both war and death. This natural behavior became proverbial for divine judgment's inevitability—where there is spiritual death, divine judgment will certainly find it, just as eagles find carrion.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's use of this eagle imagery inform your understanding of the certainty and swiftness of divine judgment?
2. What does this verse teach about the harsh realities of both natural and spiritual life under God's governance?
3. In what ways should the eagle's instinct to find the slain warn you about spiritual death and its consequences?

Interlinear Text

וְאַפְרֹחֵי	יִשְׁלְעוּ	דָּם	וּבְאֶשׁ רַחֵם	חַלְלֵי יִם	שָׁם
Her young ones	also suck up	blood	H834	and where the slain	H8033
H667	H5966	H1818		H2491	
הֲיֵאָמַר					
are there is she					
H1931					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:28 (Parallel theme): For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Luke 17:37 (Parallel theme): And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.