

Psalm 106:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

Analysis

This verse describes God's response to Israel's lustful demand for meat. 'He gave them their request' shows God granted what they craved—quail in abundance (Numbers 11:31-32). 'But sent leanness into their soul' uses *razon* (רָזֶן), meaning leanness, wasting, or emaciation. While their bellies were filled, their souls were starved. This teaches a sobering principle: God sometimes grants sinful desires as judgment, allowing people to experience the emptiness of what they crave. Getting what we want apart from God's will brings spiritual death, not satisfaction. This verse warns against demanding our desires and illustrates that true judgment sometimes means receiving what we sinfully crave.

Historical Context

After Israel's complaint, God sent quail so abundantly that it piled up 'two cubits high' around the camp (Numbers 11:31). The people gathered greedily for two days. But 'while the flesh was yet between their teeth,' God struck them with plague and many died (Numbers 11:33). Their graves at Kibroth-hattaavah testified that lust kills. Paul references this event as a warning to Christians (1 Corinthians 10:6).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does receiving what we sinfully desire sometimes constitute divine judgment?
2. What is 'leanness of soul' and how does it differ from physical or material poverty?
3. In what areas might you be choosing satisfaction of desires over spiritual health?

Interlinear Text

וְיִתְּרַ�	לְפָנֶיךָ	שְׁאָלָתָם	וַיִּשְׁלַח	בְּנֶפֶשׁ
And he gave	H1992	them their request	but sent	into their soul
H5414		H7596	H7971	H7332

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.

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