

Psalms 50:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

Analysis

The absurdity continues: 'Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?' God has no physical needs that sacrifices could meet. The questions are rhetorical, exposing the foolishness of thinking ritual could supply the infinite, self-sufficient God. True worship must involve something other than material transfer.

Historical Context

Pagan rituals often conceived of gods consuming offerings. This verse marks categorical distinction: Yahweh is spirit, eternal, self-sufficient--not a larger version of creatures with physical needs.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What misconceptions about God does this rhetorical question expose?
2. If God doesn't need our offerings materially, what purpose do they serve?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר־תְּאַכֵּל

Will I eat the flesh of bulls

H398

H1320

אֲבִיר יָם

H47

וְדַם

H1818

עַתְוֹד יָם

H6260

אֲשֶׁר־תְּשַׁתַּחַת

or drink

H8354

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