

Psalms 78:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea:

Analysis

He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea—the hyperbolic language ('dust,' 'sand of the sea') emphasizes overwhelming abundance. Hebrew še'ēr (flesh) and 'ôp kânāp (winged birds) satisfied their craving. Yet this 'answered prayer' became their nightmare—God gave them what they demanded to expose the poison in their desire.

Psalm 106:15 adds the tragic footnote: 'He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.' Romans 1:24-28 describes similar judgment: 'God gave them up' to their lusts. Sometimes divine wrath means granting sinful requests, letting rebels discover ruin in their demands. Christ warns: 'seek first the kingdom... and all these things will be added' (Matthew 6:33)—in that order.

Historical Context

Kibroth-hattaavah ('graves of craving') memorialized this judgment (Numbers 11:34). While they gorged on quail, a plague struck, killing thousands. Their graves testified that getting what you want can be the worst judgment.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What answered prayer might actually be divine judgment, giving you over to your destructive desire?
2. How can you discern the difference between God's provision and God 'giving you up' to your craving?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּטֵּר	עָלֵיהֶם	כְּעָפָר	בְּשָׂרָה	וְכַח	יַם יָם
He rained	H5921	also upon them as dust	flesh	like as the sand	of the sea
H4305		H6083	H7607	H2344	H3220

עֹף	כְּנָפָיִם
fowls	and feathered
H5775	H3671

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