

# Psalm 78:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;

## Analysis

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**So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire**—the Hebrew *śāba'* (well filled) means satiated to excess, stuffed beyond satisfaction. God gave them *ta'āwātām* (their desire), the same word for 'lust' in v. 18. This verse captures the tragedy of getting exactly what you want when what you want is poisonous.

Proverbs 23:2 warns: 'Put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite.' Jesus taught that life doesn't consist in abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15). Paul calls the stomach 'their god' for those who mind earthly things (Philippians 3:19). Israel's filled bellies revealed empty souls—they ate themselves to death, proving Augustine's maxim: 'Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.'

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'their own desire' indicts Israel's self-determination. God gave them precisely what they demanded, without editing or improvement. This divine 'yes' to fleshly appetite resulted in mass graves, proving that God sometimes judges by granting requests.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. What desires are you pursuing that, if fully satisfied, might destroy you?
2. How does consumer culture's promise of satisfaction through consumption mirror Israel's fatal craving?

## Interlinear Text

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