

**Into the Depths of Mordor**  
**The Second and Third Volleys of the Curses of the Covenant**  
**(Deuteronomy 28:47–68)**  
**Veritas Class**  
**October 30, 2016**

**I. The First Volley (vv. 20–46)**

**II. The Second Volley (vv. 47–57)**

**A. The Underlying Causes of Israel’s Demise (vv. 47–48)**

**B. The Character and Tactics of the Invader (vv. 49–52)**

**C. The Horrific Consequences of YHWH’s Actions against Israel (vv. 53–57)**

And you will eat the fruit of your womb,  
the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom YHWH your God has given you,  
in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies will distress you.

As for the man  
who is tender among you  
and very refined

will be mean to his brother,  
to the wife of his bosom,

and to the remainder of his children  
who remain,  
so that he will not give to any of them  
any of the flesh of his children  
whom he is eating,  
because he has nothing else left,  
in the siege and in the distress  
with which your enemy will distress you  
in all your gates.

[As for the woman]  
who is tender among you  
and refined,  
who would not venture  
to set the sole of her foot on the ground  
because she is so delicate and tender,  
will be mean  
to the husband of her bosom,  
to her son and to her daughter,  
and to her afterbirth that comes out  
from between her feet  
and to her children  
whom she bears,

Because, lacking everything  
she will eat them secretly,  
in the siege and in the distress  
with which your enemy will distress you  
in your gates.

1. The Context of the Problem (vv. 52–53)
2. Commentary on the two panels:
  - a. Both begin by highlighting the cultural refinement of the people who are reduced to eating their own children.
  - b. Both panels depict men and women respectively turning against the members of their own families.
  - c. Both panels the hostility extends to the children, though he refers to them differently.
  - d. Both highlight the self-interest of the consumers, and the secretive nature of their actions.
  - e. Both end by highlighting the extreme stress.

### III. The Third Volley (vv. 58–68)

#### A. The Opening Warning against Covenantal Infidelity (v. 58)

#### B. The Consequences if Covenantal Infidelity: Three Strikes and You're Out (vv. 59–68)

##### 1. Strike One: Plague and Disease (vv. 59–63b)

28:59-63b	28:63c-67	28:68
<p><sup>59</sup>Then YHWH will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting. <sup>60</sup>And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you.</p> <p><sup>61</sup>Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, YHWH will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.</p> <p><sup>62</sup>And you will be left few in number, instead of being as numerous as the stars of heaven, because you did not obey the voice of YHWH your God.</p> <p><sup>63</sup>And as YHWH took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so YHWH will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you.</p>	<p>And you will be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>64</sup>And YHWH will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other,</p> <p>and there you will serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. <sup>65</sup>And among these nations you will find no relief, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but YHWH will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul. <sup>66</sup>Your life will hang in doubt before you. Night and day you will be in dread and have no assurance of your life. <sup>67</sup>In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' and at evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' because of the dread that your heart will feel, and the sights that your eyes will see.</p>	<p><sup>68</sup>And YHWH will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again;</p> <p>and there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer."</p>

a. Note the Intensity of YHWH's Actions

b. Note the Effects of YHWH's Actions

##### 2. Strike Two: Dispersion (vv. 63c–67)

##### 3. Strike Three: Enslavement (v. 68)

#### C. Colophonic Conclusion (29:1 [Heb 28:69])