

1 Samuel 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

Analysis

Eli's response shifts dramatically from rebuke to blessing. His words 'Go in peace' invoke the fullness of Hebrew shalom - not merely absence of conflict but complete well-being. His petition that 'the God of Israel grant thy petition' acknowledges that only God can fulfill her request. Ironically, Eli pronounces blessing on the prayer he neither heard nor understood. Despite his failures, Eli remains God's priest, and his blessing carries spiritual authority. God graciously uses imperfect instruments to accomplish His purposes.

Historical Context

The priestly blessing formula echoes elements of the Aaronic benediction (Numbers 6:24-26). The priest's role as intermediary between God and worshipers remained operative even when the priest's personal discernment failed.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can God use even flawed spiritual leaders to channel genuine blessing?
2. What does Eli's blessing, given without knowing its content, teach about faith in God's sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְשָׁלֹם וְלֹא־בְּשָׁלֹם יְהוָה לְעֵמֶק יְהוָה לְעֵמֶק יְהוָה לְעֵמֶק יְהוָה לְעֵמֶק
answered Then Eli and said in peace and the God of Israel grant
H6030 H5941 H559 H1980 H7965 H430 H3478 H5414

אַתָּה נְתָת־רְשָׁיָה לְתַת־רְשָׁיָה מְעַמְּדָךְ
thee thy petition that thou hast asked H5973
H853 H7596 H834 H7592

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:34 (Peace): And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Judges 18:6 (Peace): And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.

2 Kings 5:19 (Peace): And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

1 Samuel 25:35 (Peace): So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

Luke 7:50 (Peace): And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

1 Chronicles 4:10 (References God): And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Luke 8:48 (Peace): And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

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