

1 Samuel 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

Analysis

Elkanah's continuation of annual pilgrimage demonstrates unchanged faithful practice. The reference to 'his vow' indicates he had joined Hannah's commitment, showing marital unity in spiritual matters. The household's collective worship ('all his house') models family religion centered on covenant obligations. Yet the focus shifts to Hannah's exceptional commitment - she will not merely visit Shiloh annually but leave her son there permanently. Elkanah's family maintains normal religious observance while Hannah prepares for extraordinary sacrifice.

Historical Context

The 'yearly sacrifice' likely refers to family obligations beyond the three mandatory festivals. Some scholars suggest this was a special vow-fulfillment offering. The inclusion of 'his vow' indicates Elkanah had made his own commitments to God, perhaps concerning Samuel's dedication.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain regular spiritual disciplines while preparing for seasons of extraordinary commitment?
2. What role does family unity play in fulfilling significant spiritual vows?

Interlinear Text

לִזְבַּח בֵּית וְכָל אֶלְקָנָה בְּאָשָׁר וַיַּעַל
went up And the man Elkanah H3605 and all his house to offer
H5927 H376 H511 H1004 H2076

וְאַתָּה בְּמִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה נִדְרָה אֶת
unto the LORD sacrifice the yearly and his vow
H3068 H853 H2077 H3117 H5088

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 1:3 (Sacrifice): And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

Deuteronomy 12:11 (Sacrifice): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: