

1 Samuel 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

Analysis

Hannah's decision to wait until weaning before presenting Samuel shows practical wisdom within spiritual commitment. Her statement 'I will not go up until the child be weaned' reveals intentional preparation for permanent separation. The phrase 'that he may appear before the LORD' uses language elsewhere applied to covenant assemblies (Exodus 23:17; 34:23). Her declaration 'there abide for ever' (literally 'sit/dwell perpetually') indicates not visits but permanent residence at the sanctuary. Hannah's heart was set on fulfilling her vow completely, even knowing the personal cost.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern weaning typically occurred between ages two and four, though some traditions suggest up to age five. This extended period provided maternal bonding and basic nurturing before transition to sanctuary life. Weaning was often marked by celebration (Genesis 21:8).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance practical wisdom with urgent spiritual commitment?
2. What does it cost to follow through completely on promises made to God?

Interlinear Text

וְחַנָּה	ל	א	עַל	תָּה	כִּי	אָמְרָה	לְאִישׁ	הָ	עַד
But Hannah			went not up			for she said	unto her husband		for
H2584		H3808	H5927		H3588	H559	H376		H5704

יָגַם	ל	הֲנֵ עַר	וְהִבֵּאתִי	יו
be weaned		I will not go up until the child	and then I will bring	
H1580		H5288	H935	

וְנִרְאָה	אֶת	פְּנֵי	יְהוָה	וְיָשָׁב	שָׁם	עַד
him that he may appear		before	the LORD	and there abide		for
H7200	H853	H6440	H3068	H3427	H8033	H5704

עוֹלָם:

ever

H5769

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 1:28 (References Lord): Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 1:11 (References Lord): And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child,

then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

Luke 2:22 (References Lord): And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

Deuteronomy 16:16 (References Lord): Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Leviticus 25:23 (Parallel theme): The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

1 Samuel 2:11 (References Lord): And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

1 Samuel 3:1 (References Lord): And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

1 Samuel 2:18 (References Lord): But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.