

1 Samuel 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

Analysis

Elkanah's response demonstrates supportive headship that honors his wife's spiritual convictions. His words 'Do what seemeth thee good' affirm Hannah's judgment while maintaining family order. The phrase 'only the LORD establish his word' invokes divine faithfulness to accomplish what has been promised. The term 'his word' (devar) may refer to either the prophetic word spoken through Eli or the broader divine purpose Hannah discerned. Hannah's nursing period becomes a time of preparation - both physical nurturing for Samuel and spiritual preparation for separation.

Historical Context

Elkanah's deference to Hannah's spiritual judgment represents an unusual but not unprecedented pattern in Scripture (compare Manoah's wife in Judges 13). His invocation of divine faithfulness echoes covenant language throughout the Old Testament.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can spouses support each other's spiritual callings even when it requires sacrifice?
2. What seasons of preparation has God given you before major life transitions?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֵינַי יֵרָא	הֵט וּב	עָשָׂה י	אִשָּׁה ה	אֶלְקָנָה ה	לָהּ	וַיֹּאמֶר
what seemeth	thee good	unto her Do	her husband	And Elkanah	H0	said
H5869	H2896	H6213	H376	H511		H559
יְהוָה ה	יָקֵם	אֶרְאֶה	אֶת־ו	גְּמָלָהּ ה	עַד	וַתֵּשֶׁב
him only the LORD	establish	H389	H853	until she weaned	H5704	abode
H3068	H6965			H1580		H3427
עַד	בְּנָה ה	אֶת־ו	וַתֵּשֶׁב	הָאִשָּׁה	דְּבָרֵי ו	אֶת־
H5704	and gave her son	H853	abode	So the woman	his word	H853
	H1121		H3427	H802	H1697	
אֶת־ו	גְּמָלָהּ ה					
H853	until she weaned					
	H1580					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 7:25 (Word): And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.