

1 Samuel 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young.

Analysis

Hannah's offerings accompany Samuel's dedication - three bulls (or one three-year-old bull, depending on textual reading), an ephah of flour (about 22 liters), and a skin of wine. These lavish gifts indicate both gratitude and proper preparation for the child's sanctuary life. The phrase 'the child was young' (literally 'the boy was a boy') emphasizes his tender age, intensifying the magnitude of Hannah's sacrifice. She brings both her son and substantial material offerings, holding nothing back from the God who answered her prayer.

Historical Context

The offerings correspond to various sacrificial categories: burnt offering, grain offering, and drink offering. An ephah of flour was substantial - about ten days' worth of bread for a family. The variety of offerings suggests dedication ceremonies, thanksgiving offerings, and provision for the child's maintenance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does bringing your best offerings to God look like in your life?
2. How do you demonstrate gratitude when God answers significant prayers?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּתְאַלֵּה him she took him up	הָעֵמֶד H5973	כִּאֵשׁ רַעַם H834	גָּמְלָתָו And when she had weaned	בְּפַרְתָּם H1580	בָּפָרִים bullocks
H5927			H1580		H6499
שְׁלֵשָׁה with her with three	אֱפָה H7969	אֶת־אֵת ephah and one	מִקְחָה H259	בְּלֵבֶל H7058	מִזְבֵּחַ and a bottle of flour
H374		H259	H7058	H5035	H3196
וַיִּתְבֹּא and brought	בֵּית H1004	וְיַהְיֶה him unto the house	שְׁלֵז of the LORD	וְיַהְיֶה in Shiloh	צָעֵר and the child
H935		H3068	H7887	H5288	
צָעֵר and the child					
H5288					

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 18:1 (Parallel theme): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

Deuteronomy 12:11 (References Lord): 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: