

1 Samuel 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

Analysis

The slaying of the bull(s) begins the formal sacrificial ritual that accompanies Samuel's dedication. The phrase 'brought the child to Eli' marks the official transfer - the very priest who had misjudged Hannah's prayer now receives her promised son. The sacrifice provides context for the dedication: blood must be shed, life must be given, atonement must be made. Samuel's life of service is founded on sacrifice, pointing toward the ultimate High Priest whose sacrifice would establish a new covenant.

Historical Context

Sacrificial animals were slaughtered by the offerers, not the priests, in the early period (Leviticus 1:5, 11). The priests' role was handling the blood and portions for the altar. This procedure emphasized the worshiper's active participation in the offering.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What sacrifices must accompany our dedications to God?

2. How does Hannah's sacrifice point toward the greater sacrifice of Christ?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁחָטוּ	אֶת	הַפֶּה	וַיָּבִיאוּ	אֶת	הַנֶּעַר	אֶל	עֲלִי:
And they slew	H853	a bullock	and brought	H853	the child	H413	to Eli
H7819		H6499	H935		H5288		H5941

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:22 (Parallel theme): 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;

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