

1 Samuel 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Elkanah's faithfulness in annual pilgrimage to Shiloh demonstrates covenant fidelity amid spiritual decline. The title 'LORD of hosts' (Yahweh Sabaoth) appears here for the first time in Scripture, emphasizing God's sovereign command over heavenly armies. The ominous mention of Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas foreshadows coming judgment. Despite the corruption of the priesthood, faithful Israelites like Elkanah continued to worship, illustrating that institutional failure does not excuse personal disobedience.

Historical Context

The three annual pilgrimages (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles) were required by Mosaic law (Exodus 23:14-17; Deuteronomy 16:16). Shiloh, located in the hill country of Ephraim, served as Israel's central sanctuary for approximately 300 years before its destruction by the Philistines around 1050 BCE.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How should believers maintain personal faithfulness when religious institutions become corrupt?
2. What does Elkanah's persistent obedience teach about worship regardless of circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשָׁא	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
went up	man	And this	out of his city	yearly	yearly	to worship
H5927	H376	H1931	H5892	H3117	H3117	H7812
וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
and to sacrifice	of the LORD	of hosts	in Shiloh	H8033	And the two	sons
H2076	H3068	H6635	H7887		H8147	H1121
וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
of Eli	Hophni	and Phinehas	the priests	of the LORD		
H5941	H2652	H6372	H3548	H3068		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:41 (Parallel theme): Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

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.

Exodus 23:14 (Parallel theme): Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

Exodus 34:23 (References Lord): Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

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:

1 Samuel 1:21 (Sacrifice): And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

1 Samuel 1:9 (References Lord): So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

Judges 18:31 (Parallel theme): And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

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