

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

לְהַשְׁתִּתּוֹ תִּמְ יְמָה יְמָה וְעַלָּה
went up man And this out of his city yearly yearly to worship
H5927 H376 H1931 H5892 H3117 H3117 H7812

בָּנִי שְׁנִי וְשָׁמְ בְּשֵׁל הַצְבָּא וְתַלְזֵב חַ
and to sacrifice of the LORD of hosts in Shiloh H8033 And the two sons
H2076 H3068 H6635 H7887 H8147 H1121

עַל יְמָה וְפָנֵי יְמָה לְיְמָה
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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