

1 Samuel 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

Analysis

The distribution of sacrificial portions reveals the communal nature of Israelite worship. Fellowship offerings (shelamim) were shared meals where the worshiper, priests, and family participated together before the LORD. Elkanah's provision for Peninnah and her children followed customary practice, yet his special treatment of Hannah would soon become evident. The sacrificial system pointed forward to Christ, the ultimate sacrifice who invites believers to feast at His table in communion.

Historical Context

The peace or fellowship offering described in Leviticus 3 and 7 involved burning fat portions on the altar, giving the breast and right thigh to priests, and allowing the worshiper to eat the remaining meat with family. This was the only sacrifice where the offerer could consume part of the offering.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the communal aspect of Old Testament worship inform our understanding of Christian fellowship?
2. In what ways does the fellowship offering point toward the Lord's Supper?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י	הִי וּמִ	וַיִּזְבֵּחַ ח	אֶלְקָנָה ה	וְנָתַן	לְפָנָיו ה
H1961	And when the time	offered	was that Elkanah	he gave	to Peninnah
	H3117	H2076	H511	H5414	H6444
אִשְׁתּוֹ וְלִכְלֹ	בְּנֵי יָהּ	וּבָנוֹת יָהּ	מְנוֹת:		
his wife	and to all her sons	and her daughters	portions		
H802	H3605	H1121	H1323	H4490	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 16:11 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

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