

# 1 Samuel 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

## Analysis

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The detailed description of priestly corruption begins. The 'custom' (mishpat, which can mean either practice or judgment) of these priests perverted proper sacrificial procedure. The three-pronged fork used to select meat portions was meant to take what God had designated for priests. Instead, it became a tool for random seizure. The boiling pot - intended for the worshipers' communion meal - became the priests' personal buffet. What should have been orderly worship became chaotic exploitation of those who came to honor God.

## Historical Context

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Levitical law specified that priests received the breast and right thigh of peace offerings (Leviticus 7:31-34). By using a fork in boiling pots, Eli's sons claimed random portions before proper procedures were followed, mixing their allotment with the worshipers' share.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do religious practices become corrupted from their original purposes?
2. What safeguards protect against leaders exploiting those they are meant to serve?

## Interlinear Text

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וּמִשְׁפָּט	הַכֹּהֵן	אֶת	הָעָם	כָּל	אִישׁ	
<b>custom</b>	<b>And the priests</b>	H854	<b>with the people</b>	H3605	<b>was that when any man</b>	
H4941	H3548		H5971		H376	
זָבַח	זָבַח	וָכָא	בְּעַר	הַכֹּהֵן	כְּבִישׁ ל	הַבָּשָׂר
<b>offered</b>	<b>sacrifice</b>	<b>came</b>	<b>servant</b>	<b>And the priests</b>	<b>was in seething</b>	<b>while the flesh</b>
H2076	H2077	H935	H5288	H3548	H1310	H1320
וְהַמִּזְלֵג	שָׁלֹשׁ	הַשֵּׁנַיִם	בְּיָדוֹ:			
<b>with a fleshhook</b>	<b>of three</b>	<b>teeth</b>	<b>in his hand</b>			
H4207	H7969	H8127	H3027			

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