

1 Samuel 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

Analysis

The corruption spreads from the priests' portion to the people's share. Whatever the fork brought up, 'the priest took for himself.' This violated multiple laws: taking more than priestly due, interrupting the worshiper's communion meal, and showing contempt for sacred procedures. The phrase 'So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites' indicates systematic, widespread abuse. Every worshiper who came to the central sanctuary encountered this corruption. Religious leaders who exploit worshipers destroy not only individual faith but national spiritual life.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence suggests Shiloh was destroyed around 1050 BCE, likely by Philistines. This destruction, referenced later in Jeremiah 7:12-14 and 26:6, became a paradigm of divine judgment on corrupt worship sites. The priests' behavior contributed to God's willingness to allow this destruction.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What happens when religious corruption becomes systematic rather than isolated?
 2. How should believers respond when encountering corrupted religious institutions?

Interlinear Text

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