

1 Samuel 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

Analysis

The narrator's assessment is comprehensive: 'the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD.' Great in scope (affecting all worshipers), great in nature (profaning sacred things), and great in consequence (causing others to despise worship). The phrase 'men abhorred the offering of the LORD' indicates the most serious result - corrupted leadership drove people away from God. When those representing God act wickedly, seekers conclude that God Himself must be unworthy. The priests' sin multiplied through every discouraged worshiper who left Shiloh disillusioned.

Historical Context

The phrase 'abhorred the offering' uses the Hebrew *na'ats*, indicating contemptuous rejection. This same verb describes how Israel's sin caused Gentiles to blaspheme God's name (Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:20-23). Leaders who cause others to despise God's worship bear enormous guilt.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does corrupt leadership cause others to despise genuine faith?
2. What responsibility do leaders bear for the faith or disillusionment of those they influence?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| וַתְּהִי י | חַטָּאת | הַנְּעָרִים | גְּדוֹלָה | מְאֹד | אֶת | פְּנֵי י |
| H1961 | Wherefore the sin | of the young men | great | was very | H853 | before |
| | H2403 | H5288 | H1419 | H3966 | | H6440 |
| יְהוָה: | כִּי | נֶאֱצַו | הָאָנָשִׁים | אֵת | מִנְחַת | יְהוָה: |
| of the LORD | H3588 | abhorred | for men | H853 | the offering | of the LORD |
| H3068 | | H5006 | H582 | | H4503 | H3068 |

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 6:11 (Parallel theme): The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Genesis 13:13 (Sin): But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Malachi 2:13 (Sacrifice): And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.