

# 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

---

פָּנִים אֲתָה יְתַהַר  
H1961 Wherefore the sin H2403 of the young men H5288 great H1419 was very H853 before H6440  
יְהִי הָרָאָה מִן־תְּחִזְקָת־אֶת־בְּעָרָשׁ יְמֵנָה  
H3068 of the LORD H3588 abhorred H5006 for men H582 the offering H853 H4503 of the LORD 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.