

1 Samuel 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Analysis

Eli's advanced age coincides with full awareness of his sons' wickedness. He 'heard all that his sons did' - not rumors but confirmed reports of their comprehensive corruption. Their sin extends beyond sanctuary abuse to sexual exploitation: 'they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle.' These women may have been worship attendants (Exodus 38:8) or simply faithful worshipers. Either way, the priests corrupted the most sacred space for the basest purposes. Eli knows but takes inadequate action.

Historical Context

The 'women that assembled at the door' appear also in Exodus 38:8, where their mirrors provided bronze for the laver. Their service at the sanctuary entrance made them vulnerable to predatory priests. This sexual abuse violated both their persons and the holiness of the sanctuary.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does knowledge of wrongdoing create responsibility for action?
2. What does the sexual exploitation of worshipers reveal about the depth of the priests' corruption?

Interlinear Text

יַעֲשֶׂה	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	כָּל	אֵת	וְשָׁמַע	מֵאֵד	זָקֵן	וְ	עַלִּי
Now	Eli	old	was	very	and	heard			
H5941		H2204		H3966		H8085			
אֵת	וְשָׁכְבוּ	אֲשֶׁר	וְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְכֹל	בְּנָיו			
all	that	his	sons	unto	all	Israel			
				H3605		H3478			
מִוֶּעֶד:	אֵת	הַ	בָּא	וְ	הַנָּשִׁים	פֶּתַח	אֵת	הַ	מִוֶּעֶד:
of	the	congregation	of	the	tabernacle	at	the	door	of
H4150									

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 38:8 (Temple): And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.