

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

וְעַשْ	וְעַל	אֲשֶׁר	כִּל	אֵת	וְעַל	וְעַל
Now Eli	old	was very	and heard	H853	H3605	H834
H5941	H2204	H3966	H8085			did
						H6213
בָּנָיו	לְכָל	וְשָׁרָא	לְ	אֲשֶׁר	אֵת	וְשִׁכְבּוּן
all that his sons	H3605	unto all Israel	H3478	H853	H834	and how they lay
H1121						H7901
מִזְבֵּחַ	אֶל	פֶּתַח	פָּצַח	בָּא	וְתַ	פְּנַסְיָם
with the women	that assembled	at the door	of the tabernacle	of the congregation		
H802	H6633	H6607	H168			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.