

1 Samuel 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

Analysis

Eli's argument reaches its theological apex with a profound question: 'if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?' Sins between humans can find human judges and mediators. But sins directly against God leave no higher court of appeal. This rhetorical question answers itself: none can mediate between the sinner and the offended God - except, as the full canon reveals, the promised Mediator, Jesus Christ. Yet the sons 'hearkened not' because 'the LORD would slay them.' Divine judicial hardening confirms their self-chosen path toward destruction.

Historical Context

The concept of divine hardening appears throughout Scripture (Exodus 4:21; Romans 9:18). Hophni and Phinehas had so thoroughly committed to wickedness that God withdrew restraining grace, sealing their destruction. Their refusal to listen confirms rather than causes their doom.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does Eli's unanswered question find its answer in Christ's mediatorial work?
2. How does persistent rejection of correction lead to judicial hardening?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים
H518	sin	If one man	If one man	shall judge	the judge	H518
	H2398	H376	H376	H6419	H430	
וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים
against the LORD	sin	If one man	H4310	shall judge	H0	H3808
H3068	H2398	H376		H6419		
וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים
for him	Notwithstanding they hearkened	not unto the voice	of their father			H3588
	H8085	H6963	H1			
וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים
would	against the LORD	slay				
H2654	H3068	H4191				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:26 (Sin): For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

Joshua 11:20 (References Lord): For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses.

1 Samuel 3:14 (Sin): And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

Numbers 15:30 (References Lord): But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Proverbs 15:10 (Parallel theme): Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

Hebrews 7:25 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

1 Timothy 2:5 (Parallel theme): For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Psalms 51:4 (Judgment): Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Deuteronomy 1:17 (Judgment): Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

2 Chronicles 25:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.