

1 Samuel 2:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

Analysis

The indictment reaches its core accusation: 'honourest thy sons above me.' Eli's failure was not ignorance but misplaced loyalty. He valued his sons' comfort over God's honor. The verb 'kick' (ba'at) pictures stubborn resistance, like an animal refusing the yoke. The phrase 'to make yourselves fat' indicts both father and sons - Eli shared in the benefits of their corruption. His passive tolerance constituted active participation. The question 'Wherefore?' demands accounting. No acceptable answer exists for prioritizing human relationships over divine commands.

Historical Context

The Hebrew behind 'kick at my sacrifice' suggests disdainful, contemptuous rejection - treating sacred things as worthless. Eli's 'fattening' from corrupt offerings made him complicit in his sons' crimes. Leadership passivity in the face of corruption becomes active evil.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. In what areas might you be honoring human relationships above God's clear commands?
2. How does passive tolerance of wrongdoing become active participation?

Interlinear Text

לָמָּה	תִּבְעֹט וְ	בְּזִבְחִי	מִנְחָת	אֲשֶׁר	
H4100	Wherefore kick	ye at my sacrifice	and at mine offering	H834	
	H1163	H2077	H4503		
צִוִּיתִי	מֵעַ וּן	וּתְכִיב ד	אֶת	בְּנֵי יִבְ	מִמֶּנִּי
which I have commanded	in my habitation	and honourest	H853	thy sons	H4480
H6680	H4583	H3513		H1121	
לְהַבְרִיֵּאֲכָם	מִרְאֵשׁ יֵת	כָּל	מִנְחָת		
above me to make yourselves fat	with the chiefest	H3605	and at mine offering		
H1254	H7225		H4503		
לְעַמִּי:	יִשְׂרָאֵל				
my people	of Israel				
H5971	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:37 (Parallel theme): He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Deuteronomy 32:15 (Parallel theme): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Luke 14:26 (Parallel theme): If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

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