

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 chiepest 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

אֲשֶׁר	מִנְחָת	תְּבַעַת	וְלֹא	מִתְּבַעַת	בְּזִבְחִי	מִתְּמִנָּת	רָמַת
H4100	Wherefore kick	ye at my sacrifice			and at mine offering		H834
H1163		H2077				H4503	
אֲצֹו יְתִי	מִעַן וְלֹא	תִּתְכַּבֵּד	אֲתָּה	מִתְּבַעַת	בְּבָנֶיךָ	מִתְּמִנָּת	
which I have commanded	in my habitation	and honourest	H853	H3513	thy sons	H4480	
H6680	H4583		H1121				H1254
לְפָרַיאָךְ מִתְּמִנָּת	כֵּל מִרְאָשׁ יְתִה	מִנְחָת תְּבַעַת					H7225
above me to make yourselves fat	with the chiefest	H3605					H4503
לְעַמִּים: יִשְׁרָאֵל							
of Israel	my people						
H3478	H5971						

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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