

1 Samuel 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Analysis

Hannah's warning against pride directly addresses those like Peninnah who trusted in human advantages. The phrase 'exceeding proudly' intensifies the prohibition. The theological basis is God's omniscience - He is 'a God of knowledge' (or 'God of knowledges,' plural of majesty). The statement 'by him actions are weighed' pictures divine scales measuring every deed. Human boasting reveals ignorance of the God who sees all, knows all, and will judge all. Pride before the omniscient God is not merely inappropriate but absurd.

Historical Context

The weighing of deeds imagery appears in Egyptian judgment scenes and was adopted in Israelite wisdom literature (Proverbs 16:2; 21:2; 24:12). The concept emphasizes divine evaluation that penetrates beyond external appearances to internal motivations.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's complete knowledge of your actions and motives affect your daily conduct?
2. What pride in your life ignores the reality of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	תִּכְבֹּד וְ	תִּדְבֹר	גִּבּוֹהַּ הַ	גִּבּוֹהַּ הַ	יָצֵא	עַתָּה ק
H408	no more	Talk	proudly	proudly	come	let not arrogance
	H7235	H1696	H1364	H1364	H3318	H6277
	מִפִּיךָ	כִּי	אֵל	דַּעוֹת	יְהוָה הַ	וְלֹא אֵל
out of your mouth	H3588	is a God	of knowledge	for the LORD	H3808	are weighed
H6310		H410	H1844	H3068		H8505
	עַל־לְוֹת:					
and by him actions						
H5949						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:13 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

1 Kings 8:39 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

Proverbs 24:12 (Parallel theme): If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Hebrews 4:12 (References God): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Proverbs 16:2 (References Lord): All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

Isaiah 37:23 (Parallel theme): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 94:4 (Parallel theme): How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?

Psalms 147:5 (References Lord): Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

Psalms 44:21 (References God): Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Job 31:6 (References God): Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.