

1 Samuel 2:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Analysis

God's response introduces a crucial principle: 'them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.' The original promise ('thy house...should walk before me for ever') was conditional on faithful obedience. Divine promises do not override human responsibility. The phrase 'Be it far from me' expresses God's revulsion at continuing to bless the disobedient. This verse does not teach that salvation can be lost but that covenant blessings flow through covenant faithfulness. Privilege without obedience leads to forfeiture.

Historical Context

The conditional nature of many biblical promises is crucial for proper interpretation. Descendants of Eli continued in priestly roles but lost the high priesthood, which transferred to Zadok under Solomon (1 Kings 2:26-27, 35). The promise was not annulled but passed to faithful branches.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you understand the relationship between divine promises and human responsibility?
2. What does it mean practically to 'honour' God in daily life?

Interlinear Text

אָם לֹא	נָאם	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אָמַרְתִּי	אָמַרְתִּי
H3651	saith	Wherefore the LORD	God	of Israel	I said	I said
	H5002	H3068	H430	H3478	H559	H559
וּבֵית	וּבֵית	אָבִיךָ	יִתְהַלֵּךְ	לִפְנֵי	עַד	עוֹלָם
and the house	and the house	of thy father	should walk	before	me for	ever
H1004	H1004	H1	H1980	H6440	H5704	H5769
נָאם	יְהוָה	חַלֵּל יִלָּה	כִּי לֹא			
H6258	saith	Wherefore the LORD	Be it far from me	H0	H3588	
	H5002	H3068	H2486			
אֲכַבֵּם	אֲכַבֵּם	וּבְנֵי				
for them that honour	for them that honour	and they that despise				
H3513	H3513	H959				
יִקְלָל:						
me shall be lightly esteemed						
H7043						

Additional Cross-References

John 12:26 (Parallel theme): If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Malachi 1:6 (References Lord): A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

2 Chronicles 15:2 (References Lord): And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

Isaiah 29:13 (References Lord): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Psalms 91:14 (Parallel theme): Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Psalms 50:23 (References God): Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

Exodus 29:9 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be their's for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

Psalms 18:20 (References Lord): The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

John 5:23 (Parallel theme): That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

1 Peter 1:7 (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

