

# 1 Samuel 2:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

## Analysis

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The judgment oracle specifies consequences. 'Cutting off the arm' represents removal of strength and ability to serve. No 'old man' in the house means premature death across generations. The devastating phrase 'behold, the days come' introduces prophetic certainty - this is not threat but announcement of determined judgment. Eli's house will experience generational diminishment, watching descendants die young while others prosper. The punishment fits the crime: they abused sacred privilege, so sacred privilege is removed; they shortened others' worship, so their own days are shortened.

## Historical Context

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The curse of shortened lifespans would be partially fulfilled in the slaughter at Nob (1 Samuel 22:18-19) and completed when Solomon expelled Abiathar (1 Kings 2:26-27). The gradual unfolding of this judgment demonstrates how prophetic curses work through history.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does prophetic judgment often unfold gradually rather than immediately?
2. What does generational consequence teach about the seriousness of leadership failure?

## Interlinear Text

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הִנֵּה יָמַי בָּאִים יְגַדְעֵתִי אֶת זֶרַע וְאֶת  
H2009 Behold the days H3117 come H935 that I will cut off H1438 H853 and the arm H2220 H853

זֶרַע בְּבֵיתְךָ: אֲבִי יְרָמְיָהוּ וְזֶה  
and the arm H2220 house H1004 of thy father's H1 H1961 that there shall not be an old man H2205

בְּבֵיתְךָ:  
house  
H1004