

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

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

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

הַיְמָה	זֶה עַתָּה	זֶה עַתָּה	זֶה יָמָם	זֶה יָמָם	זֶה יָמָם	זֶה יָמָם	זֶה יָמָם	זֶה יָמָם	זֶה יָמָם
H2009	Behold the days	come	that I will cut off	H853	and the arm	H853			
	H3117	H935	H1438		H2220				
and the arm	house	of thy father's	H1961	that there shall not be an old man	H2205				
H2220	H1004	H1							

בָּבִיתָךְ:

house

H1004

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