

1 Samuel 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

Analysis

Hannah's theology reaches cosmic proportions. God's sovereignty extends to life and death, the grave (Sheol) and resurrection. The parallelism 'killeth/maketh alive' and 'bringeth down/bringeth up' affirms total divine control over human destiny. This early statement of resurrection hope is remarkable, anticipating fuller revelation. Hannah proclaims not merely that God permits death but that He actively governs it for His purposes. Such absolute sovereignty provides comfort when facing mortality and hope when confronting death.

Historical Context

Sheol in early Israelite thought was the realm of the dead, a shadowy existence awaiting all. References to God 'bringing up' from Sheol are rare in early texts, making Hannah's statement theologically significant as early resurrection hope (cf. 1 Kings 17:22; 2 Kings 4:35).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over death shape your approach to mortality?
2. What comfort do you find in the God who can 'bring up' from the grave?

Interlinear Text

הַיְהּ הָיָה מֵת וְמַקֵּם הַיְהּ מִתְּמוּנָה	וְמַתֵּת מֵת מִתְּמוּנָה מִתְּמֻתָּה			
The LORD	killeth	and maketh alive	he bringeth down	to the grave
H3068	H4191	H2421	H3381	H7585

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and bringeth up

H5927

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:39 (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Isaiah 26:19 (Parallel theme): Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

2 Kings 5:7 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Job 5:18 (Parallel theme): For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

John 11:25 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Psalms 116:3 (Parallel theme): The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

Matthew 12:40 (Parallel theme): For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

1 Samuel 20:3 (References Lord): And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.

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