

1 Samuel 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

Analysis

The oath formula 'I have sworn unto the house of Eli' seals irrevocable judgment. The statement 'iniquity...shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever' is devastating - the very system Eli served cannot avail for his house. Their sin exceeded what the sacrificial system could address. This does not indicate a general failure of atonement but specific judgment on a particular house. The ordinary means of grace (sacrifice, offering) remain effective for others, but Eli's house is excluded. Only extraordinary divine mercy could help - and that would not come.

Historical Context

The concept of sin beyond normal atonement appears rarely in Scripture. The willful sin of Hebrews 10:26-27 echoes this severity. Such passages address extraordinary rebellion by those with full knowledge and position, not ordinary believers struggling with sin.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What makes certain sins exceed the provision of normal means of grace?
2. How does presumptuous sin by religious leaders differ from common human failing?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹכֶד | נִשְׁבַּע עַתִּי בֵּית עַל אֶמְתָּה רְכִפְפָּה!
H3651 And therefore I have sworn H7650 H1004 H5941 H518 H3722
house of Eli shall not be purged

עוֹלָם: עד וְבָמְנַת הַבֵּית בְּצֵבָחַת עַל בֵּית יְהוָה
that the iniquity house of Eli with sacrifice nor offering for ever
H5771 H1004 H5941 H2077 H4503 H5704 H5769

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 22:14 (Sin): And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jeremiah 7:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 15:1 (Parallel theme): Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

1 Samuel 2:25 (Sin): If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.