

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

וְלֹא־	נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי	בֵּית	עַל־י	אֵם	וְתִכְפֹּר
H3651	And therefore I have sworn	house	of Eli	H518	shall not be purged
	H7650	H1004	H5941		H3722
עוֹלָם:	בֵּית	עַל־י	בְּזֶבַח	וּבִמְנַחָה	עַד
that the iniquity	house	of Eli	with sacrifice	nor offering	for
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.