

1 Samuel 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

Analysis

Eli demands complete disclosure: 'hide not from me...God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing.' The self-imprecation formula invokes divine punishment on Samuel if he withholds information. Eli recognizes the seriousness of the moment and insists on full truth. This demand shows spiritual integrity even as it requires hearing his own doom. Eli would rather know God's word, however painful, than remain in ignorance. His response to Samuel's revelation will further reveal his character.

Historical Context

Self-imprecation formulas ('God do so to me and more also') appear throughout the Old Testament as solemn oath language (Ruth 1:17; 1 Samuel 14:44; 2 Samuel 3:35). Eli places Samuel under oath to speak truthfully.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does Eli's insistence on full disclosure, knowing it concerns judgment on his house, reveal about him?
2. When have you demanded truth that you knew would be painful to hear?

Interlinear Text

בְּ אֵל	אֵל יְהָוָה	דָּבָר	פְּדָבָר	אֲשֶׁר	מִה	וַיֹּאמֶר
And he said	H4100	What is the thing	H834	that he said	H413	H408
H559		H1697		H1696		H4994
if thou hide	H4480	בְּ הַמְּפֻנִּי תַּחֲחֵךְ	H3541	לֹבֶן	אֱלֹהִים	וְהַ
H3582		do so	H6213	H0	it not from me God	H3541
					H430	
מִכֶּל	פְּדָבָר	מִפְנִי	תַּחֲחֵךְ	אֲם	וְסִיפְרָה	to thee and more also
H3605	H1697	H4480	H518	H3582	H3254	
What is the thing	H3605					
that he said	H1697					

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 1:17 (References Lord): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

2 Samuel 3:35 (References God): And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

