

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

Psalms 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

וַיֹּאמֶר	מָה	הַדָּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	דָּבָר	אֵלַיְךָ	אֵל	נָא
And he said	H4100	What is the thing	H834	that he said	H413	H408	H4994
H559		H1697		H1696			
תִּכְחֹד	מִמֶּנִּי	כִּי	יַעֲשֶׂה	לָךְ	אֱלֹהִים	וְכִי	
if thou hide	H4480	H3541	do so	H0	it not from me God	H3541	
H3582			H6213		H430		
וְיֹסֵף	אִם	תִּכְחֹד	מִמֶּנִּי	הַדָּבָר	מִכֹּל		
to thee and more also	H518	if thou hide	H4480	What is the thing	H3605		
H3254		H3582		H1697			
הַדָּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	דָּבָר	אֵלַיְךָ:				
What is the thing	H834	that he said	H413				
H1697		H1696					

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.

