

1 Samuel 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him.
And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

Analysis

Samuel tells 'every whit' (literally 'every word'), hiding nothing. Complete disclosure fulfills prophetic responsibility and responds to Eli's demand. Eli's response is remarkable: 'It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.' No protest, no pleading, no excuse - only acceptance of divine sovereignty. This submission to judgment demonstrates a kind of faith despite failure. Eli recognizes God's right to judge and accepts the verdict. His response does not reverse the judgment but reveals a heart that ultimately acknowledges divine authority.

Historical Context

Eli's response echoes Job's acceptance of divine sovereignty (Job 1:21). Such submission to God's will, even in judgment, characterizes biblical piety at its best. Eli's earlier failures make this acceptance all the more striking.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can someone simultaneously be under judgment and submit faithfully to God's sovereignty?
2. What does Eli's response teach about accepting the consequences of past failures?

Interlinear Text

מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי דָּ וְלֹא הִדְבַּר יָם כָּל אֶת שְׁמוּאֵל לֹא וְגַד
told H0 And Samuel H853 H3605 him every whit H3808 and hid H4480
H5046 H8050 H1697 H3582

בְּעֵינָי וְהָטוּב הָיָא יְהוָה וְיֵאמַר רַחֵם
nothing from him And he said It is the LORD H1931 him good what seemeth
H559 H3068 H2896 H5869

יַעֲשֶׂה:
let him do
H6213

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 39:8 (Good): Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.

Job 2:10 (Good): But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

1 Peter 5:6 (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Psalms 39:9 (Parallel theme): I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.

Job 1:21 (References Lord): And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Lamentations 3:39 (Parallel theme): Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Judges 10:15 (Good): And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day.

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