

1 Samuel 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

Analysis

The prophecy's sign finds fulfillment: Hophni and Phinehas die together on the same day (2:34). Their deaths validate the entire prophetic oracle and seal judgment on Eli's house. The Ark's capture completes the disaster - symbol of God's presence carried away by pagans. Yet even in this catastrophe, God remains sovereign. The Ark's captivity will become the occasion for demonstrating His power over Dagon. What looks like Yahweh's defeat becomes Yahweh's victory in foreign territory.

Historical Context

The deaths of both sons on one day fulfilled precisely what the man of God had prophesied (2:34). This exact fulfillment authenticated the broader prophecy against Eli's house that would continue unfolding through subsequent generations.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the precise fulfillment of prophesied signs validate the larger prophetic message?
2. What might God's purposes be in allowing the Ark's capture?

Interlinear Text

וְאָרֹן	אֱלֹהֵי יִם	נִלְקָח	וּשְׁנֵי י	בָנָי	עַלִי	יָמֵי תוֹ	חֹפְנִי י
And the ark	of God	was taken	and the two	sons	of Eli	were slain	Hophni
H727	H430	H3947	H8147	H1121	H5941	H4191	H2652

וּפִינֶחָס׃
and Phinehas
H6372

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:34 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

Psalms 78:64 (Parallel theme): Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.

Isaiah 3:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

1 Samuel 2:32 (References God): And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.