

1 Samuel 2:12-36 **Sons of Eli – Childhood of Samuel – Prophecy against Eli's sons**

Wicked Sons of Eli

12 Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord. 13 And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged flesh-hook in his hand while the meat was boiling. 14 Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the flesh-hook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."

16 And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force."

17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

Samuel's Childhood Ministry

18 But Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

19 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The Lord give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the Lord." Then they would go to their own home.

21 And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

Eli's response to the report about his sons

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

23 So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. 24 No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the Lord's people transgress. 25 If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?"

Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the Lord desired to kill them.

Samuel's childhood

26 And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men.

Prophecy Against Eli's Household

27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him,

"Thus says the Lord: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 28 Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the

house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? 29 Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?'

30 Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

31 Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32 And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. 33 But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.

35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. 36 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread."'''

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Facts Revealed:

Wicked Sons of Eli [1 Samuel 2:12-17]

- ✧ Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord.
- ✧ Eli's sons showed disrespect to the Law and to the sacrifice of the people, by belligerently and brazenly flaunting the appetite of the flesh.
- ✧ Their actions offended the people and caused the offerings the Lord to be abhorred.

Samuel's Childhood Ministry – His brothers and sisters [1 Samuel 2:18-21]

- ✧ **Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.**
- ✧ Moreover his mother used to make him a **little robe**, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
- ✧ And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The Lord give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the Lord." Then they would go to their own home.
- ✧ And **the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters.**
- ✧ Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

Eli's response to the report about his sons [1 Samuel 2:22-25]

- ✧ Now **Eli** was very old; and **he heard everything his sons did to all Israel**, and how **they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.**
- ✧ Eli's response to his sons:
 - "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the Lord's people transgress.

If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?"

- ✧ Though Eli acknowledged the sins of his sons, all he did was to scold them.
- ✧ Nevertheless **they did not heed the voice of their father**, because **the Lord desired to kill them**.
- ✧ Eli and his sons were priests and therefore examples to the people regarding things of God.
- ✧ As examples before the people, the sons of Eli should have been stoned, remembering the action God took against Nadab and Abihu when they brought profane fire for burning incense before the Lord. [[Leviticus 10:1-3](#), [Deuteronomy 21:18-21](#)]
- ✧ Because of the damage Hophni and Phinehas had done and its impact on the people, the Lord will make an example of them and they will die for their actions.

Samuel's childhood [[1 Samuel 2:26](#)]

- ✧ And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men.
- ✧ People take notice when a child demonstrates godliness as he grows, and God was pleased also.

Prophecy Against Eli's Household [[1 Samuel 2:27-36](#)]

- ✧ God sent a man of God (prophet) to the aging Priest because he had not taken appropriate action to stop the sins of his sons.
- ✧ God does nothing without first informing men of His pending action. [[Amos 3:7](#)]
- ✧ Eli was reminded that his blood line had been chosen by God to represent Him as Priests before the people, **a sacred office**.
- ✧ By refusing to take proper action against the evil behavior of his sons, God viewed Eli as one who kicked at the sacred sacrifices and offerings given to God showing disrespect toward God Himself.
- ✧ Eli had placed the love for his sons above his responsibility toward God.
- ✧ By so doing, Eli lost the right of Priesthood for himself and his descendants.
- ✧ God said, "those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."
- ✧ The sign that the message is from God will be the fact that both Hophni and Phinehas will die on the same day.
- ✧ God will raise up a faithful priest who will do all that is in God's heart and mind, who will walk before Messiah forever, whoever is left of Eli's descendants will bow down to Him.