

Eli's Evident Decline
(1 Samuel 2:12-36)

I. SAMUEL, ISRAEL'S LAST JUDGE

A. Samuel's Birth (1:1-2:11)

B. Eli's Evident Decline (2:12-36)

1. His decline is indicated first by the proclamation that Eli's sons were _____ & they did not know the _____. (2:12)

a. Hophni & Phinehas reflected the _____ of the _____ in which they lived (Judges 21:25)

b. The law stated precisely what _____ of the sacrifices belonged to the priests (Lev 7:28-36; 10:12-15; Deut 18:1-5)

c. The attitude of Hophni & Phinehas _____ the people so that the people _____ offering sacrifices to the Lord! (2:17)

2. His decline is in stark contrast to that of _____ & his _____ (2:18-21)

a. In contrast to Eli's sons, Samuel _____ to the Lord as a child _____.

b. Hannah, according to her word, had _____ Samuel to the Lord. The Lord in return _____ Hannah with _____ more children.

- Parents, do you see you children as a blessing from the Lord?

3. Eli's decline is seen in his _____ in training up his boys (2:22-26)

a. Eli _____ his sons for their sins, but his rebuke was too _____, too _____!

b. Instead of _____ the people in the Lord, Eli's sons _____ & _____ them!

Point: Telling your kids right from wrong is not the same as _____ them _____ & _____ what is right!

- Where else have we seen a verse like this?

4. Eli's decline is reflected in impending _____ from God (2:27-36)

a. God sent an anonymous prophet to Eli to _____ Him with the facts of his _____ .

b. Eli was _____ of at least two sins here:

1) he _____ (scorned or distained) God sacrifices/offerings &

2) he honored his _____ more than he had honored _____!

c. The result was that Eli had gotten spiritually _____ & physically _____, because he _____ himself instead of _____ the Lord concerning his boys.

Principle: Give the Lord your _____, & trust Him to meet your _____!

d. Although God had stated that Aaron's son's (Eli & his sons) would walk before Him forever as His _____, He now stated.... *"those that _____ me I will _____, and those that _____ (or scorn) me will be lightly esteemed"* (literally, will be _____ or made Of _____). (2:30b)

e. God's sign of judgment to Eli, was that both his sons would _____, in one _____!

f. Then God would _____ a faithful priest who would _____ all, according to what is in My heart & in My mind (2:35)

* This prophecy would have 3 aspects of fulfillment:

1) Immediately: fulfilled in _____

2) Ultimately: fulfilled in _____

3) Eventual: fulfilled by the _____ line of priests!

What does all this mean to you?