

LESSON 21
"God Will Honor Those Who Honor Him"
1 Samuel 2-3; 8

OVERVIEW:

The sons of Eli honor themselves above the Lord. Eli honors his sons above the Lord. Samuel honors the Lord. The Israelites honor the world.

In Jewish tradition, Samuel is regarded as the first of the prophets. He probably died at the age of 52.

SCRIPTURES:

THE FIRST BOOK OF
SAMUEL
OTHERWISE CALLED
THE FIRST BOOK OF THE KINGS
CHAPTER 2

Hannah sings praises to the Lord—Samuel ministers before the Lord—Eli blesses Elkanah and Hannah, and they have sons and daughters—Sons of Eli reject the Lord and live in wickedness—The Lord rejects the house of Eli.

1 AND Hannah ^aprayed, and said, My heart ^brejoiceth in the LORD, mine ^chorn (Heb for horn, used figuratively means power, capacity) is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy ^dsalvation.

2 *There is* ^anone holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: neither *is there* any ^brock like our God. (These are prophecies about the Savior.)

3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of ^aknowledge, and by him ^bactions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5 *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the ^abarren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he ^abringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

7 The LORD ^amaketh ^bpoor, and maketh ^crich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He ^araiseth up the ^bpoor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the ^cpillars of the earth *are* the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be ^asilent in darkness; for by ^bstrength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall ^ajudge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his ^banointed. (In the Septuagint Greek version, the noun is christos) (When she went to the temple at Shiloh to deliver her son to the Lord, by entrusting him to the ministry of the temple under the priest Eli, she prayed a prayer in the form of a song (or poem) of joyous thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. This poem seems to be the model for the Magnificat – Mary's song of thanksgiving which she uttered after the conception of the Savior. Luke 1:46-55: 46 And Mary ^asaid, My soul doth ^bmagnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath ^arejoiced in God my ^bSaviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his ^ahandmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me ^bblessed. 49 For he that is

mighty hath done to me great ^athings; and ^bholy *is* his name. 50 And his mercy *is* on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the ^aproud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted them of ^alow degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54 He hath ^aholpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of *his* mercy; 55 As he spake to our ^afathers, to Abraham, and to his ^bseed for ever. David R. Seely, Studies in Scriptures, 3:272. Jesus' mother, Mary, was also given to the temple. Mary's parents were Anna & Jehoakim (McConkie says Jacob). They were wealthy. Anna had trouble having a child and promised the Lord that if he would bless her with a child, she would dedicate that child to the Lord. When the child was born they named her Miriam (Mary). After weaning the child, at about age 3, they took her to the temple to live and be reared by the priests. Such a child was called the candlestick of the Lord. Mary would serve in the temple the spring and fall of the year and spend her summers in Nazareth. Several years later her parents died and she inherited everything that was theirs.)

11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. ^aAnd the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest. (Heb And the youth served the Lord in the presence of Eli, the priest.)

12 ¶ Now the ^asons of Eli *were* ^bsons of ^cBelial; (Meaning they were wicked) they knew not the LORD.

13 And the priests' custom with the people *was, that*, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was ^ain seething (or boiling), with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; 14 And he struck *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest ^a'took' for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have ^asodden (or cooked, boiled) flesh of thee, but raw.

16 And *if* any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat ^apresently, (ie first of all) and *then* take *as much* as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, *Nay*; but thou shalt give *it me* now: and if not, I will take *it* by force.

17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men ^aabhorred the offering of the LORD.

18 ¶ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ^aephod. (BIBLE DICTIONARY - EPHOD - Part of the dress of the high priest (Ex. 29: 6, etc.), shaped like a waistcoat with two shoulder pieces and a girdle. It was of richly variegated material, blue, purple, and scarlet. On the shoulder pieces were two onyx stones on which were engraved the names of the 12 tribes. To the ephod was fastened the Breastplate of Judgment. An ephod of all priests (1 Sam. 22: 18). It was also worn by Samuel (1 Sam. 2: 18), and by David when he brought up the Ark (2 Sam. 6: 14). The ephod at one time became the object of idolatrous worship (Judg. 8: 27; 17: 5). The name may possibly in these last passages have been used to denote an image of some kind.)

19 Moreover his ^amother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 ¶ And Eli ^ablessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for ^bthe loan (Heb the petition which she asked) which is ^clent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

21 And the LORD ^avisited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

22 ¶ Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

24 *Nay*, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to ^atransgress. (Eli does not deal properly with his sons. He is too lenient with them.)

25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall ^ajudge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the

LORD would slay them.

26 And the child Samuel ^agrew on, and was in ^bfavour both with the LORD, and also with men.

27 ¶ And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

28 And did I ^achoose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ^bephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the ^cofferings made by fire of the children of Israel?

29 Wherefore ^akick ye (ie treat with scorn) at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and ^bhonourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the ^ahouse of thy father, should ^bwalk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that ^chonour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly ^desteemed.

31 Behold, the ^adays come, that I will ^bcut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. (Eli's family is to be destroyed.)

32 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.

33 And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall ^adie both of them.

35 And I will ^araise me up a faithful ^bpriest, *that shall do according to that which is* in mine heart and in my mind: and ^cI will build him a sure house; (ie his progeny shall be perpetuated) and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

36 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

CHAPTER 3

The Lord calls Samuel—House of Eli not purged by sacrifices and offerings—Samuel recognized as a prophet by all Israel—The Lord appears to him.

1 AND the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious (scarce) in those days; *there was* no open ^avision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his place, and his ^aeyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;

3 And ere the ^alamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*;

4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I.

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and ^astood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy ^bservant heareth. (Why didn't Samuel get his instructions from the Lord through Eli? The Lord immediately explained the symbolism of Samuel's three fruitless visits to Eli. The chain of authority had been circumvented and changed. Because of the iniquity of Eli's sons, his house was destined for destruction. And just as the house of Eli was to decrease, Samuel was to increase. A new prophet had been called, and Samuel became the direct recipient and dispenser of the word of the Lord to Israel. David R. Seely, *Studies in Scriptures*, 3:273)

11 ¶ And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall ^atingle.

12 In that day I will perform ^aagainst Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will ^ajudge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his ^bsons made themselves vile, and he ^crestrained them not. (Lack of parental discipline)

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15 ¶ And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel ^afeared to shew Eli the vision.

16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I.

17 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. (Eli asked for it.)

18 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.

19 ¶ And Samuel ^agrew, and the ^bLORD was ^cwith him, and did let none of his words ^dfall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel *was* ^aestablished *to be* a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD ^aappeared again in ^bShiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the ^cword of the LORD.

CHAPTER 8

Samuel's sons take bribes and pervert judgment—Israel seeks for a king to rule over them—Samuel rehearses the nature and evils of kingly rule—The Lord consents to give them a king.

1 AND it came to pass, when ^aSamuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beer-sheba.

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took ^abribes, and perverted judgment.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons ^awalk not in thy ways: now make us a ^bking to judge us like all the nations.

6 ¶ But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the ^avoice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have ^brejected me, that I should not ^creign over them. (Samuel would anoint the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David.)

8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet ^aprotest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the ^bking that shall ^creign over them.

10 ¶ And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ^aear his ground (or cultivate), and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13 And he will take your daughters *to be* ^aconfectionaries, (or perfumers, ointment makers) and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants.

15 And he will take the ^atenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your ^aking which ye shall have ^bchosen you; and the LORD will not ^chear you in that day.

19 ¶ Nevertheless the people refused to ^aobey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

20 That we also may be like all the ^anations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. (This had always been the Lord's job. Their rejection of the Lord would result in many troubles.)

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Harken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

(Samuel warned the Israelites of three principal evils of a kingly form of government: excessive taxation, conscription of the labor force, and seizure of private lands. Old Testament Student Manual, p. 271)

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