

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 2-3

1 SAMUEL 2:12-17 - ELI'S SONS CORRUPTION

V. 12 - "WORTHLESS MEN, WHO DID NOT KNOW THE LORD" - YET THEY ARE SERVING AS THE LORD'S PRIESTS IN SHILOH. SERVING GOD DOES NOT ALWAYS EQUATE TO KNOWING GOD. "WORTHLESS MEN" IS LITERALLY SONS OF BELIAL" IN HEBREW

V. 13-17 - ELI'S SONS WOULD TAKE THE PREMIUM PIECES OF MEAT FROM THE PEOPLE FOR THEMSELVES.



- "THE PRIESTS WERE TO BE SUPPORTED BY PORTIONS OF THE SACRIFICES OF THE PEOPLE. IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE MOSAIC LAW THE PORTION TO BE GIVEN TO THE PRIESTS IS SPECIFIED FOR VARIOUS SACRIFICES, E.G., DEUT. 18:3 (SHOULDER, CHEEKS, AND STOMACH) AND LEV. 7:31-32 (BREAST AND RIGHT THIGH). BUT THE PRACTICE IN 1 SAM. 2:13-14 HAS LITTLE IN COMMON WITH THE REGULATIONS ON PRIESTLY RIGHTS." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 SAM 2:13-14)

- "A WORSHIPPER IS COOKING HIS PORTION OF A PEACE OFFERING FOR THE POST-SACRIFICIAL MEAL HE AND HIS FAMILY WILL ENJOY TOGETHER. HERE COMES THE UBIQUITOUS PRIEST'S SERVANT WITH HIS INFAMOUS THREE-PRONGED BARBEQUE FORK: HE PLUNGES IT INTO THE WORSHIPPER'S POT OR KETTLE, AND WHATEVER THE FORK BRINGS UP HE CARTS AWAY TO THE PRIESTS' QUARTERS (V. 13-14). THE PRIEST WAS ALREADY ALLOTTED THE BREAST AND RIGHT LEG (LEV. 7:28-36), BUT THE SHILOH FORK-MAN WAS SENT TO STAB FOR MORE." (DALE RALPH DAVIS "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 SAMUEL", PG. 30)

1 SAMUEL 2:18-21,26 - SAMUEL'S MATURITY. GOD'S FAVOR ON HANNAH CONTINUES

V. 18 - THIS STATEMENT SHOWS THE GROWTH AND ADVANCEMENT OF SAMUEL. 2:11 SAYS SAMUEL "MINISTERED TO THE LORD BEFORE ELI THE PRIEST" AND NOW HE IS MINISTERING/SERVING BEFORE THE LORD ALONE, IN THE FUNCTION OF A PRIEST.

1 SAMUEL 2:22-25 - ELI CONFRONTS HIS SON'S BEHAVIOR

V. 22 - ANOTHER SIN IS HIGHLIGHTED: ELI'S SONS WERE HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH WOMEN WHO WERE SERVING AT TABERNACLE.

- THE PHRASE: "ALL HIS SONS WERE DOING TO ISRAEL" EMPHASIZES THE FACT THAT THESE PRIESTS WERE A BURDEN/OFFENSE TO THE NATION. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THESE TWO SONS WAS AFFECTING THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT LARGE.

Q - WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HEARD YOUR SONS WERE ACTING CORRUPTLY AGAINST THE LORD? WOULD YOU BE BLIND TO IT? DENY OR EXCUSE IT? CONFRONT IT? THE CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP IS IMPORTANT, BUT CANNOT BE ELEVATED OVER THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

1 SAMUEL 2:27-36 - WORD CONCERNING ELI'S SONS

V. 27 - "A MAN OF GOD" - WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THIS MAN WAS, BUT WE WILL SEE IN 1 SAMUEL THAT THERE WAS A COMMUNITY OF PROPHETS THAT WILL APPEAR FROM TIME TO TIME TO SPEAK ON THE LORD'S BEHALF. PROPHETS WERE GIVEN MESSAGES FROM GOD ABOUT PARTICULAR SITUATIONS AND WERE COMMISSIONED TO SPEAK FOR HIM. (SAMUEL WILL BE THE LEADING PROPHET OF THIS ERA).

V. 29 - GOD IS ANGRY WITH ELI'S SONS, BUT HE IS ALSO DIRECTING THIS WORD TO ELI HIMSELF. ELI WAS THEIR FATHER AND THEIR HIGH PRIEST. THOUGH ELI APPEARS TO BE ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD'S WAYS, HE WAS ALSO "HONORING HIS SONS ABOVE (GOD)" (V. 29). THE TEXTS HAS ALREADY INFORMED US THAT "ELI WAS VERY OLD" (V. 22), AND PERHAPS ELI WAS ALLOWING HIS AGE/PHYSICAL CHALLENGES TO MINIMIZE HIS ZEAL FOR THE LORD'S WAYS.

THE PROPHECY IS THIS: JUDGMENT ON ELI'S HOUSE (SONS BOTH DIE ON SAME DAY PER V. 34) AND A NEW PRIESTHOOD THAT WILL BE JUST AND FEAR THE LORD. WE WILL WATCH THIS PROPHECY BE FULFILLED IN CHAPTER 4.

1 SAMUEL 3:1-9 - SAMUEL'S CALL

SAMUEL HEARS THE VOICE OF GOD, BUT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE IT AS SUCH. INSTEAD HE GOES TO ELI, ASSUMING ELI HAD CALLED HIM.



GOD IS QUIETLY CALLING SAMUEL IN THE MIDST OF THE NOISY CORRUPTION OF ELI'S SONS:

SAMUEL SERVING (2:11)

LITURGICAL SINS (2:12-17)

SAMUEL SERVING (2:18-21)

MORAL SINS (2:22-25)

SAMUEL GROWING (2:26)

PROPHECY OF JUDGMENT (2:27-26)

SAMUEL SERVING (3:1A)

(FROM DAVIS, PG 31)

1 SAMUEL 3:10-18 - THE LORD'S MESSAGE TO SAMUEL CONCERNING ELI'S SONS

V. 13 - "FOR I HAVE TOLD HIM" - THIS MAY HAVE BEEN NEWS TO SAMUEL, BUT IT WAS NOT TO ELI (CP. 2:7-36)

V. 15-18- IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR SAMUEL TO HAVE TO INFORM ELI OF THIS NEWS.

DESPITE HIS CHILDREN'S CORRUPTION, AND HIS OWN FAILINGS, ELI WAS A HUMBLE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE LORD

- CONFRONTS HIS SON'S BEHAVIOR (2:22-25)
- RESPONDS TO THE LORD'S DECISION TO DISCIPLINE THEM THROUGH THE MAN OF GOD (2:27-36)
- TEACHES SAMUEL HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD (NOT ENVOUS OF SAMUEL) (3:9)
- ACCEPTS THE WORD FROM THE LORD TO SAMUEL ABOUT HIS SONS (3:18)

1 SAMUEL 3:19-21 - SAMUEL'S REPUTATION SPREADS

V. 20 - "FROM DAN EVEN TO BEERSHEBA" IS A PHRASE REPRESENTING THE WHOLE LAND OF ISRAEL. COMPARE TO OUR AMERICAN EXPRESSION "FROM COAST TO COAST"

V. 21 - AS GOD FINDS A FAITHFUL SERVANT IN SAMUEL, HIS PRESENCE AND SPIRIT AGAIN IS PRESENT AT THE TABERNACLE IN SHILOH.