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### Eli The Wicked Priest

In 1 Samuel, we see Eli, who is a priest in charge of the Tabernacle of the Lord in the land of Shiloh. In the first three chapters of 1 Samuel, we get the introduction to Eli's life at the temple and his responsibility as a priest of God. In the first chapter, we see Eli in the temple judging and mistaking Hannah to be a drunken woman because she was praying to the Lord in her heart, but her lips were moving. Between chapters one and two, we see Hannah's prayer asking God to conceive a child. When God answered her prayer, she offered her son Samuel to the Lord, where he lived in God's presence. Therefore Samuel was raised by Eli in the temple of God. Eli failed to address his sons, who were sinning against the God of Israel. Eli, as well, was taking the best part of the sacrifices that were brought before the Lord by the people from Israel. I believe that Eli is a lousy character because throughout 1 Samuel, chapters one to three, Eli does wrong in the eyes of the Lord.

Eli was a priest at the Tabernacle of the Lord at Shiloh, he as a priest had many responsibilities, such as judging the people of Isreal, addressing the nation doings, ministering to the people of God, serving and protecting the Tabernacle of the Lord. One of the good things Eli did was that he blessed Hannah. In 1 Samuel chapter one, Eli confirmed Hannah after he missed judged her, "Then Eli answered, "go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made him," (1Sam 1:17, *English Standard Version*). Eli also blessed Elkanah and Hannah,

saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord” (1Sam 2:20, *ESV*). When Hannah offered Samuel to the Lord to live in the Tabernacle, Eli received Samuel, and he ministered under Eli. This is a good act for Eli to do because he is obeying Hannah’s promise to God. Although Eli served the Lord, he did not serve the Lord with all his heart.

In 1 Samuel chapter two, the God of Israel cursed and prophesied against the house of Eli. The Lord said to Eli, “Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?” (1Sam 2:29, *ESV*). This shows that Eli honored his sons more than God, as well as Eli used to take the best part from the offerings brought by the people of Israel to the Lord. Eli failed to address his sons, who did not know the Lord, and had to regard to the God of Israel, and they slept with the women who served at the entrances of the tent meeting. The failure of Eli to rebuke his sons was the cause of the curse upon his house by the God of Israel, “...and there shall not be an old man in your house forever” (1Sam 2:32, *ESV*).

Even though Eli raised Samuel to obey God and his commands, he failed to raise his sons to follow and serve the Lord faithfully. There was a time that the Lord called Samuel, who slept by the ark of the Lord, Samuel did not know the voice of God; therefore he went to Eli to ask if he had called him. Eli realized that the Lord was speaking to Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go to his place and lay down, and when God speaks, say to him, “Speak, for your servant hears” (1Samuel 3:10, *ESV*). The Lord spoke to Samuel on that night, and in the morning, Eli asked Samuel, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you” (1 Samuel 3:17, *ESV*). This is a wicked act for

a High Priest of the Lord to perform, Eli knew the curse that the Lord would bring upon his house due to their sin, he tried to intimidate Samuel and curse Samuel with his curse own curse, “..May God do so to you and more also..” Just because he wanted to know what the Lord had spoken to Samuel. This is a wrongdoing from Eli because his wishing for God to do the same or more against Samuel if he conceded anything God spoke to Samuel.

The lessons that I learned applicable to my Christian life is always to have the reward for the Lord, be faithful and fear the Lord because disobedient causes me to sin against the all-knowing God. Disobedient may cause me to stumble and sin before the eyes of the Lord, which can endanger my relationship with him. Eli disobeyed God’s commands and sin against God, and the Lord brought destruction upon his household. In the overall, Eli served the Lord, but Eli did not serve God with all his heart as a Priest should serve, he misjudge others, and he failed to give the proper honor to the God whom he supposed to serve.