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Old Testament

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Assignment 3

### Assignment 3:

We are introduced to the prophet and read about his meeting with God when he was staying with the chief Priest, Eli ( I Samuel 3). In verse 3, God calls out to Samuel while he was, “lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.” (ISamuel 3:3). God called upon Samuel and Samuel, thinking that Eli was calling him, responded “here I am” (ISam 3:4). But then Eli told him that he had not called upon him, and that he should go back. Then once again, God called upon Samuel, and Samuel again thought it was Eli, but when he went Eli turned him away saying it was not him. God, for the third time, called on Samuel. Eli then realized that God was calling on Samuel and told Samuel to, “go and lie down, and if He calls you, say, ‘speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” (ISam 3:9). When God called upon Samuel the fourth time, Samuel did as Eli instructed him. God then told Samuel His plan for the house of Eli and what will come of Israel. The next morning Eli has asked Samuel about what the Lord had told him. Reluctantly Samuel told Eli everything God had told him, even the part of the judgement on Eli’s family. Eli responded, “ He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.” (ISam 3:18.) Then the chapter concludes with Samuel growing up and all of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, recognizing that Samuel is a prophet of the Lord.

I believe that Eli is both good and bad, recognizing that he was human too. Eli took Samuel under his wings, and took care of him, that shows his good. In verse 9, we see how he guides Samuel and offers him good advice when he tells him to respond, “ speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” (ISam3:9). When he asks Samuel about what God had told him, and he hears about the ill fate of his family and he responds, “ He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.” (ISam 3:17), he knew what was to come to him and his family when

God said, “for I have told him that I will judge his house” (1Sam 3:13). So he has accepted God's will, even though it will mean suffering for him and his family. In the previous chapters, Eli disobeyed God when he was not able to reprimand his sons, who were also priests under the guidance of Eli, who were treating God's offering with contempt. There was sin everywhere during those days, the Israelites were going away from God. In verse 1 we read, “ the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.” Eli knew that there was sin and evil everywhere, but he did not do everything in his power to stop it. I feel as if it unfair to put that blame on him because even though he knew it was bad, and confronted his sons for it, he was of old age and no one was listening to him.

A lesson we can take from the the story Samuel and of Eli is the lesson of obedience. When God called upon Samuel, he responded, “here I am” for the three times even though he did not know that it was God. Eli, spent his entire life serving God and upholding his commandments and will. They both obeyed God and his will, and accepted it as their own. This is one very big lesson I can take away and apply in my personal walk with God. When I was a child I listened and obeyed without asking questions because I knew that, that was what I was to do. As I grew older, and questioned things I also began to question God and his will. It is hard, especially in this day and age, to blindly follow a will. There is no guarantee that this will make your life better or worse, or happier or sadder. The only thing that really matters is the will of God. If we accept it, then we are truly putting our faith in Him. He has a will, he knows our fate, he will guide us on our path. No matter how hard we try to avoid it or try to “fix” it, as some would say, God will guide us back. There is a purpose to our life and he will reveal it to us in due time. So my lesson to be learned is be obedient and listen to God's will.