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BIB 102 OA

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## Assignment 2: Samuel

Throughout the chapter of Samuel, we meet Eli, who was a priest and was known for raising Samuel. When first meeting Samuel, he sits at the foot of the tabernacle in Shiloh. Shiloh was a permanent home for the tabernacle and was seen as the Promised Land. During this time, we meet Hannah Elkanah and their first son, Samuel. When Hannah is pronounced pregnant after praying to God for a child, she dedicates him to the Lord, who had blessed her with her Son, Samuel.

Eli served as a high priest, working in hand with God. Once Hannah had given birth to Samuel, she devoted his life to God, leaving him in Eli's hands. Eli is seen as a good man by taking in Samuel. So that he was the Priest who was there the night Hannah arrived at the tabernacle. She was in extreme agony, crying and praying. When Eli approached her, she was still praying for the Lord to give her a son, and once he did, she would give him to the Lord for all his life to come. Eli approached her, assuming she was drunk, and asked her why she was drunk and praying to the Lord. Hannah replied that she wasn't drunk but in deep trouble, pouring her soul out to the Lord in the hope of a miracle. Eli looks and can recognize her pain; he then says, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." With that, she becomes pregnant and has her son. Eli is seen doing good for her because he comforts Hannah when she is in extreme pain. Also, when Hannah gives birth to Samuel, Eli takes him under, and Samuel continues to work with the Lord.

With Eli's good, he had failed as a father. Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. His two sons were very rude and disrespectful. Both Hophni and Phinehas were priests like Eli. They used their power in an abusive way. They would take the people's sacrifices for themselves and force the people to give them to them forcibly. When Eli was informed of this horrible act by his sons, he confronted them and told them, "If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the Lord, who will intercede for them?" When he shares this point, his sons ignore their father and continue their actions. Instead of Eli doing the right thing, he chose to ignore his son's actions. With that, God sends Eli a message for his disrespect and for not taking action for all the wrongdoing.

With the two sides of Eli I read about, Eli can be seen as a person that is not to be trusted, he isn't necessarily a wrong person, but he's not seen as a person of good. God left him in charge of a role that should be held with honor and taken with responsibility. Instead, he let his role in that leadership position for his sons as well as for the love of God, slip. He had to learn from his actions and consequences. Eli also ignored his son's wrongdoing after being brought to the topic. He could have quickly taken steps and made sure his sons obeyed his asking, but he chose to ignore them after they denied his requests. This is terrible parenting and a lack of effort in his position as a priest and judge of Shiloh.

With the story of Eli, I feel I can take this into my everyday life and apply it to my relationship with God and friendships. I feel in life today. We can get very distracted and not always put God in our #1 spot. When he isn't number one, we sin and disobey him. Similar to Eli's sons. I never want to be put in a position of breaking God like Eli and his sons. We can take this story and learn to accept our role in whatever it is in the world today and follow it constantly. Being a leader is an essential task. Lacking that task can lead to issues and not being seen as

necessary. I will take this as a reminder to go daily with God by my side and to love and trust him in all I do.