

INTRODUCTION

Eli was a descendant of Aaron through Ithamar, the youngest of his sons (compare Leviticus 10:1, 2, 12 with 1 Kings 2:27; 2 Samuel 8:17 and 1 Chronicles 24:3). He was the first of the line of Ithamar who held the office of high priest.

Eli is a Jewish priest living in the Tabernacle in Shiloh. Eli is well known for his blessings of Hannah, Samuel's mother. Eli was a devoted high priest who served 40 years as judge. He is an old priest sitting by the door of the Tabernacle in Shiloh, (1 Samuel 1), and Shiloh was the first "permanent" home of the Lord's Tabernacle in the promised land.

What does Eli do that is good?

Eli was a devoted high priest who served God genuinely, as a man not as a father. He served for 40 years as judge of Israelites, the first priestly descent also to regulate the affairs of the people (1 Samuel 4:18)

It was Eli who said to Hannah "Go in Peace", and may God of Israel give you what you have asked Him for" "YHWH gave her conception and she bore a son" (1 Samuel 1:17). Eli genuinely supervised and trained Samuel with the fear of God; to faithfully serve at the Tabernacle (1 Samuel 2:11).

In so many ways, Eli was a very good man; however, there was an area in which he was a failure, and that was as a father. Eli's submissive attitude in time of judgment of God, when informed by Samuel, he simply stated, "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him" (1 Samuel 3:18). It is to show that he is humble and has the fear of God in him. He didn't question God neither did he prove to God that he is innocent of the judgment.

What bad things does Eli do?

Eli failed to curtail the abusive behavior of his own children. When the bad behavior of Eli's sons was reported to him (Eli); and he found out these things, he rebuked his sons but failed to make them stop, rather he allowed them to continue to profane the Tabernacle (2 Samuel 2:25). Eli's affection was set on the prosperity to be had from the Tabernacle offerings and to be enjoyed by his sons. He could not stop his sons' immoral act.

Eli devalued the Lord God to keep the peace with his two sons; because of the uncurtailed bad behavior of Eli's sons, they were defeated in battle and the Ark of the covenant was lost and the Tabernacle in Shiloh was abandoned.

Is Eli a good or bad character in your view?

His parental irresponsibility as a person is total and uncounted; and he could not bend his children and force or make them to know the right attitude to exhibit. Eli loved God, but his heart was with his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. He over-pampered his two sons to the extent that they don't even listen and value his words anymore. He will only rebuke them and later allow them to carry on with their immoral behavior.

With specific regard to the life of Eli,

Eli is a priest and also a parents .Eli is a counselor to Samuel , mentor and spiritual director .He directed Samuel geniously and guided him..This is given me an insight ,that any body that is under me should be directed rightly so that the person will not depart from it; The Bible says train a child in a park he should follow so that tomorrow he will not depart from it.in future the person will remember me as a good , respond and respectable guidan.

what lesson can I learn for application to my Christian life today.

One of the greatest lessons in the story of Eli is that I as Christian must actively seek to conserve this union and to manifest it both in my individual personal activities and also in my family and social engagements.I must be able to fulfilling my responsibility according to the state of life to which I belong as a practicing Christian.

I should be able to enconcate good moral values and beliefs.I must be able to live a life that is capable of integrating good moral values .

CONCLUSION

Eli's faith towards God does shift around ,he had faith in God ;but his heart belongs to his two sons. In the beginning he would always pray and believe God was good. As the story goes on and he faces many hardships his beliefs get shaken up, he started having pleasure on material things of the world.Eli decided to choose the world instead of the lord, eventually he experienced sorrow and regret.The chapter ended with Israel knowing that God had made Samuel a prophet , by the word of lord God

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