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Old Testament Literature

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### Samuel 1-3

Samuel 1-3 was a very interesting story to me as I've never heard it before so I tried to learn as much as I could about it when I was reading the story. At first I was confused about Eli having two wives since today Christians are only known to have one. I know that in the religion Islam you can have more than one wife but I didn't know Christians did it in the past. In the beginning I thought Eli was a good priest and person but toward the end I see God was not very happy with him and his two sons who were priests as well.

I think Eli did some good things in this story. For example he was a Priest to the Lord and a family man who cared about his wives and sons. He was also very supportive to his wife Hannah since she couldn't have kids and she would pray to God a lot and when that moment came and she had Samuel he supported her. For example, in Samuel 1:23 Eli says "Do what seems best to you," "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word." Also toward the end when God was trying to talk to Samuel, Eli helped his son Samuel by telling him how to respond to God In Samuel 3:10 "Speak, for your servant is listening." and Samuel did so resulting in having a conversation with God.

Eli was not a perfect man as he did some things that were wrong for example he put his two sons Hophni and Phinehas as priest when they really weren't men of God since they slept with the women who served at the entrance of the tent of meeting and they also took meat from the Israel people when that meat was supposed to be sacrificed and they would take it by force if

they didn't give them raw meat. When Eli found out all he did was give them a slap on the wrist and didn't get them in trouble.

To me Eli is a good character who had some mistakes along the way because he was a man of God and a family person as well. Although he did love his two sons Hophni and Phinehas very much he should have disciplined them better and educated them better on not to play with God. I think he is a good character because he still helped Samuel to get in contact with God and the decisions of his sons were not his fault as someone can not control the actions of other grown men. Yes he put them in that position of power but he didn't know they would do such a thing until he was too old.

What I can learn from Eli is that you have to raise your kids well because at the end of the day they are a reflection of you since you are the one who raised them. Another thing I could learn from Eli is that even when God was mad at him for not controlling his two older boys that did not stop him from helping his younger son Samuel get in contact with God and still telling him in Samuel 3:18 "he is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes" instead of being upset at God for killing his two sons.