

Noah Brill

Professor David Emanuel

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Title: Subtitle

Read through 1 Samuel 1—3 (chapters 1, 2, and 3), focusing on the life of Eli. In essay format, address the following questions: What does Eli do that is good; What bad things does Eli do; Overall, is Eli a good or bad character in your view; With specific regard to the life of Eli, what lessons can you learn for application to your Christian walk today.

Eli, a priest and judge in ancient Israel, is a complex character described in the Bible in the first three chapters of the Book of 1 Samuel. He is portrayed as both a good and bad character, and we learn about his strengths and weaknesses as he serves as a judge, priest, and mentor to Samuel, the future prophet of Israel. From his actions and his dealings with those around him, we can draw lessons for our Christian walk.

Among the good things Eli does is his dedication to the office of high priest of Israel and the fact that he is a respected leader in Israel. He is a priest and judge, and people come to him for advice and decisions. He is portrayed as kind and merciful, especially to the young Samuel whom he raises and trains to be a prophet who later becomes one of the most important figures in Israel's history. In addition, he is described as kind and caring towards Hannah, who is unable to have children and is very distressed about this. He comforts her and encourages her to pray to God for a child. Eli also shows his love for God by allowing Samuel to serve in the temple and instructing him in the ways of the Lord. In addition, Eli shows great respect for God by listening

to Samuel's visions and messages from God, even though they often bring bad news for Eli and his family.

However, not everything Eli does is so positive. One of his biggest mistakes is in the upbringing of his sons. Eli fails to properly discipline his own sons, Hophni and Phinehas, which is also seen as a failure of his leadership skills. They are corrupt and immoral, and abuse their position as priests by using offerings intended for God for their own benefit. This lack of discipline leads to the desecration of the temple and the loss of God's favor. Eli is aware of their misconduct but does nothing about it, which eventually brings a curse on his family.

Accordingly, in my opinion, Eli is a complex character in that his actions are both good and bad, which does not make it any easier to say whether he is a good or bad person overall. Despite his flaws, there are some lessons that we can learn from Eli's life and apply to our Christian walk today. One of the most important lessons that can be applied to the Christian walk is the importance of accountability and discipline. Eli's failure to discipline his sons shows that our actions have consequences and that failure to correct bad behavior can have far-reaching and damaging effects. As Christians, it is important to hold ourselves and others accountable for our actions and to discipline ourselves and others when necessary.

Another lesson is the importance of listening to the voice of God, as Eli did when he listened to Samuel's visions and messages. This demonstrates the importance of being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, even when it may bring difficult news or challenges. It is important for us to be receptive to God's voice, and to follow His guidance, even when it may not be what we want to hear.

Furthermore, what we can learn is the importance of leading by example. Eli is a leader in Israel, but he fails to set a good example for his own sons. He does not model for them the

behavior he expects of them. As Christians, we are called to be leaders, and it is important that we lead by example and practice what we preach.

In summary, the life of Eli as portrayed in 1 Samuel 1-3 is a complex life that contains both good and bad elements. However, despite his weaknesses, valuable lessons can be learned from his life, including the importance of discipline, listening to the voice of God, and learning leadership by example. These lessons can be applied to our Christian walk today as we seek to grow in our relationship with God and live as faithful servants of His Kingdom.