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### Qualities Of Eli

There was a man who had two wives, one was named Hannah and the other was named Peninnah. Hannah was depressed because she was not able to have children. One of her family customs was to travel yearly to Shiloh to offer sacrifices to the Lord. When they arrived, while the rest of the family was eating and drinking, Hannah decided to enter the temple by herself to pray to God. Her pain and suffering were so intense that she could not contain her tears and was crying as she was praying in her mind. When Eli the priest saw her, he thought Hannah was drunk. After Hannah explained to him the reason she was in such distress and that she was not a wicked woman, Eli was good to her and blessed her. "Go in peace and may the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him" (1Sam 1:17). After that, Hannah wiped her tears, ate, and was no longer sad. God heard the prayers of Hannah and Eli and she conceived a child. Later in the story, Eli did another nice thing; when Hannah came back to Shiloh to offer sacrifices, he blessed her and her family for a second time and Hannah conceived 5 more children.

Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas who were working in the temple with him. But these two men were very bad; they would steal the meat people brought for their sacrifices, and also, they were engaging in fornication. In many occasions God warned Eli about the

behavior of his sons but it seemed like he did not put in the energy to address the issue. Eli would tell his sons to repent, but he did not put in enough time and effort for the good formation of his sons.

One day a man of God came to Eli and told him about the consequences and what God was planning to do about it. "In that day I will perform against Eli and all I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them" (1Sam 3:12-13). This is something he did wrong. Earlier in the story when Hannah was praying in the temple, Eli thought that she was drunk simply because she looked distraught. That was a bad thing Eli did by judging her at first glance.

In my opinion, I believe Eli had good and bad qualities like all of us. He was serving in the tabernacle of the lord meaning, he was in the presence of God trying to do the right thing. On the other hand, he was a fearful father; he was probably afraid of his own sons being aggressive toward him if he would try to correct them.

The life of Eli teaches me that I have to walk before God in complete obedience and submission. That he will let me know if I am doing something wrong, in order for me to change. However, if I do not change, He will pass judgement onto me.

