

Sage Sumpter  
Dr. David Emanuel  
BIB 102  
02/07/2023

Eli was a priest in Israel. The Israelites were feeling a disconnect in regard to God and Eli was the one who was assisting them with that problem. When speaking of the good things that Eli had done, I think it was safe to say there was quite a balance regarding the good and bad that he committed. There were a few things that Eli did which were good. One of the first good thing that Eli did was helped Hannah through the hardships she was encountering. Hanna was a woman who was poor that ended up dedicating her son to the Lord because Eli wanted to raise a priest. Hannah had spoke a prayer asking for another child. She did that in front of Eli he had blessed her. Each year when Hannah brought Samuel a robe for him to wear I the house of the Lord, Eli blessed her and her husband. Though there were some good things that he did there were also quite a few bad things that he did as well.

The first thing that occurred was something with his sons. He had two sons. One named Hophni and another named Phineas. They violated the law by first by eating meat from sacrifices that were not for them. There were quite a few things that were wrong to do that they decided to do anyways. When the word about their wrong doings got back to Eli, they reprimanded them but by no means did he make them stop. Another thing that he did was he started a war. He took the High Priesthood from Phinehas's Descendants. Another evil thing that Eli did consist of him offering sacrifices on stone altars.

When it comes to the topic of whether or not Eli is good, I think it is slightly complicated. I think he may have tried to be a good person at times. Other times I think it was more so the latter. I think that can be the case when it comes to a lot of people, but I think it was more significant when it came to this situation because of the war. I think that him not being a good person also goes along with him not being a great father. I think the good or bad characteristics can carry over when it comes to parenting and then it can be amplified within the child of who they are raising.

When it comes to being a Christian, I think I always try to be good. I am not always the best at it or always staying on track with my communication with God and I end up falling short quite often. Thankfully, the Lord is very forgiving. One lesson that I can definitely take away and apply to my life is praying for others. The power of prayer is unlike anything else and doing so not only helps the other person, but it gives you another chance at communicating with God. In realizing the power of prayer, I also see that praying when situations or circumstances become increasingly harder is something that I should do quite often.