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The Life of Eli

One may ask the question: who is Eli? Where did he come from? When you look at the life of Eli, he was both a judge and a high priest. He judged Israel for forty years, and he was the one who organized the affairs of the people of Israel. One can safely say that he descended from the lineage of Aaron. He was Aaron's fourth son in that Eli was from the lineage occupied by the high priestly office and the beginning of the period of the judges. The life of Eli is demonstrated by what he did which was good and bad, and his character is either good or bad and how I can apply his life lesson to my life.

Being that he was from the lineage that occupied the high priestly office, He and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas would normally attend the yearly pilgrim festivals (Jud 21:19). While attending this festival He met Hannah who spoke in her heart to God to bless her with a son. Due to her training, and praying words hidden in her heart (1Sam 1:13). Hannah's prayer led her back to the house of the Lord to give her son back as she had promised. Hannah's vow is reminiscent of the Nazirite charge included in the annunciation of Samson's birth. Giving her son back to God caused Eli to do a good thing by accepting Her son. I believe that God was setting Samuel up to be used. I also believe from my reading that God was showing Eli that he had left His presence. Because he had left the presence of the Lord, he could not see that God was setting Samuel up. Also, He was giving Eli a chance to correct the bad situation that his sons were committing before Him and His people.

Nevertheless, they did not heed the voice of their father, because the Lord desired to kill them. (1Sam 2:25). Because of their wicked act of plunging the fork into the sacrificial meat, contrary to what is written in the Pentateuch. Which states that only certain portions of the sacrificial animal were to be eaten by the priest. If Eli had consulted God on how to handle the bad situation, then his lineage would have lived, and they would not have died.

As a leader, Eli did not handle the bad situation well that his sons had created. I also believe that Eli had messed up. If he had confessed his sins and the sins of his sons to God. Then God would have forgiven them and in turn, his lineage would have lived on. I think that Eli's character was good. He was a kindhearted person and he loved God with all his heart. When he took Samuel in, that in itself shows that he was kind. It also shows that he loved to help people to walk into their God-given purpose. As it relates to him being a leader, He was not willing to listen. For Eli to be a successful leader and priest, He would have had to listen to God for his direction. Also, if he had perseverance with his sons then they would have repented of their sins. I believe that if he was honest before God that he had sinned and come short of the glory of God. Then God would have forgiven him. Also, if his integrity was consistent then he would have been brutally honest with his sons.

Looking back at the life of Eli reminded me that as a child of God when you have fallen from the presence of God. We need to confess our sins to Him and He is ready to forgive us. Two things that stood out to me about the life of Eli were that he was a kindhearted person, and he was a destiny helper to the life of Samuel. My take a way from the life of Eli that I would apply to my life is whatever service am doing. I must do it unto the Lord wholeheartedly, without wavering, without committing any sin, and I must seek God for His direction, His instruction, and His wisdom.

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