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### A View on Eli

Chapters 1 to 3 of 1 Samuel go over the life of Hannah's son Samuel and Eli along his descendants, like his sons Hophni and Phinehas. She does not bear children and prays to God for a child. Hannah declares that if she is given a child, she will then give him to the Lord. This comes true and she bears a son, who she calls Samuel. Hannah, as she declared to the Lord back then, gives Samuel to the Lord as stated in 1 Sam 1:21, "But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever'". Once he was weaned, Hannah gave him to the temple to the priest Eli, who we get to understand more clearly over the chapters. Eli was a priest, so some level of respect, authority, and Godliness was meant to be seen in him. As seen through the chapters, what was seen as a priest instead comes out as a troubled man and a troubled father to his sons.

Eli was a priest, and was seen as fit to be the connection of man to God, a messenger of what God could be and say to the people. The good that Eli has done can be seen in how he was able to aid Hannah in her time of need and sorrow. Eli first assumed that she was a drunk and tried to make her flee from the temple. Hannah explains her sorrow and Eli told her how her prayers will be answered and to go with favor in her sight, for she will bear a son. Once Hannah had given Samuel to the Lord and his temple, Eli was tasked to care for him. Not even just caring for him, he then became a sort of son to Eli. With this, Eli made it to build Samuel up to a level

of Godly understanding and the virtues/ways that Eli had known. Eli became the father of Samuel and shaped him into the man of God we know of.

For the bad of Eli is what brought him such future judgment. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas were lacking in what was God's will. They were relentless and sinful. When Eli was making a sacrifice of boiling the meat, his sons went and ruined the offering towards God. His sons showed no sign of restraint and this all comes back to the parenting and leadership of Eli towards his sons. Eli would only complain to his sons of what they did and not show them action to what they had done when they sinned or disobeyed. This in turn made God very angry and placed judgment not only on Eli and his sons but on the rest of his descendents.

Seeing how Eli has done good and wrong, it is a little difficult to distinguish rather is he a good or bad character. In the end, I see Eli as a good character. When not looking at the judgment casted upon him, he still is worthy to God and obedient. He does not resent God for the punishment placed on him because of his sons. When God speaks to Samuel about Eli's judgment, Eli asks Samuel what God said and to not leave out anything. Samuel told him everything and Eli said in 1 Sam 3:18, "-It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him". Eli stays faithful in God and leads Samuel to become who we know while still in God so I believe him to still be a good character.

Applying what was shown through Eli's life and putting it into my own life, my faith in God does not change. I still love and worship Him and see the Lord as my light through life. Something I will put into play in my life is how important it is to understand the values and virtues God gives us at an early age. These are so important to have a grasp of. This is exemplified in how Eli's sons are throughout the chapters. Eli is still at his core, a man of heart, who cares and worships the Lord through any troubles that have come his way.