

Aiaja Blackwell

Professor David Emanuel

Old Testament Literature - BIB 102 OA

Tuesday February 07th 2023

What about Eli?

Reading through the first three chapters of the book of the 1Sam. in the Bible you really see the focal point of Eli's life. Eli is a priest who happens to have two sons by the name of Hophni and Phineas. Both of his sons were sons of Beilal; they did not know God. They were very wicked and had no regard for the Lord. During that time there was a specific practice for the priest. When it was time for the annual sacrifice, the priest had to take a fork (Flesh of three teeth) and dig in the pot where the sacrifice was being cooked. The very first thing that the fork caught onto that was the priest portion for himself. This go round before they burnt the offering the servant of the priest said to a man that had a sacrifice that he should give some of the sacrifice to the priest before he offered it as a sacrifice to be cooked. This was considered a sin because the practice was not followed through with in its proper order. Ideally the way God intended it to happen.

Eli then rebukes his sons but his sons ignored him and paid no mind to old Eli. In the text you see some things that Eli did that were suggested as good such as the rebuke. " And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? For I hear of your evil dealings by all these people. Nay my

sons ;for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress" 1Sam.
2:23-24

But what was not good was that he partook in the saying that his son started to follow through with the act of taking the sacrifice before it was sacrificed. "Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD."

1Sam. 2:15-17 KJV. God spoke to Eli and told Eli what was going to happen in the times to come. It was later confirmed what the Lord said by the child named Samuel.

Personally I feel that Eli was in fact good but also on the other hand bad because he saw that his sons were out of order and he rebuked them. However, he partook in the sin of taking some of the sacrifice before it was even offered up as a sacrifice. Eli should have followed through with the strategic order God willed for the annual sacrifice other than honoring his sons before honoring God.

While reading this passage of scripture I learned that you have to be obedient to God to the absolute fullness, follow instructions and if God says do something a certain way while others close to you are saying do it this way, do not listen. If you do not obey God you will suffer the wrath of his judgment amongst you, your family or things around you. God will move you out the way and replace you with the next!