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BIB 102 OC/ Old Testament

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1Samuel

In reading **1Samuel 1-3** focusing on the life Eli what he does that is good was he blessed Hannah after learning she was praying for a son and heard her promise to the Lord that she will give the Lord the child back all the days of his life. After the child was weaned, Hannah honored her promise to the Lord and brought her baby back to Eli for service and training.

The bad thing that Eli did was when he became very old, and he heard the things that his two sons Hophni and Phinehas were doing to all of Israel. They both served as priests at Shiloh, and they did not know the Lord, but offered sacrifices in the sanctuary and scorned their father Eli. They both were wicked and laid with women who were at the tabernacle and other evil things they were doing that people was telling him. He warned them this was not a good report on their actions causing God's people to sin. And although he warned his sons of their wrong doings they continued anyway and at this point the Lord decided to kill them. Then a man of God appeared to Eli and began to tell him in all the way God bless him even when he was at Pharaoh's house and after coming out of Egypt, he blessed him to wear an ephod. Gave him title of priest, allowed him to offer at the altar, and to burn incense. I believe God was angry because his house was not in order. He also tells him he will cut off his arm and the arm of his father's house so that he will not live to be an old man. Then the man tells him this will be what happens to his sons, and they will die. He also foretold Eli of death as well. This was all

part of the promise of God as he placed judgement on Eli's family. This all came to pass during the war with the Philistines both sons were killed on the same day. And Eli died when he heard of the defeat and the loss of the Ark of the Covenant to the Philistines.

Overall, I think Eli was a good person with good intentions, especially when it comes to raising and training Samuel. I believe he was a man of God, but he could not keep his sons in line although they were considered wicked and corrupted. They were very disrespectful to their father and didn't honor the God he served, nor did they respect his or their positions as priests. Although Eli continued to warn and protest the behaviors of his sons, he really didn't do anything physically or spiritually to stop them. Those women at the tabernacle could have been considered prostitute they were still out of line even though they did not know God, but Eli's sons were continually doing the works of God as priests that did burnt offerings and made sacrifices before the Lord for the good of the people. They probably could have been better in their works if they would have repented and turned from their wicked ways, may have saved their lives and the life of their father Eli.

With regards to the life of Eli the lessons I can learn for application in my Christian walk today is raise and teach my own children and relatives' children about God and how we should honor, respect, and worship him. The Bible say train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (**Proverbs 22:6 NKJV**). We know that God's words are true and fitting for our lives. Children must be raised to respect their parents as those who rear and provide for them, and they should be corrected when they are not doing the right thing. They should have morals and values and you see such a lack of that in today's world. In my walk of today I am learning so much in turning away from some of the ways I adopted while

growing up and in my younger years and through all the trials and tribulations I've endure I am seeing and learning how real God is to me. I see myself as a servant of God, learning and respecting his will for my life. I am still in a stage of grieving for the loss of my son, and I am crying out to God to help me because I have learned that only he can bring me through and heal my broken heart. Sometimes it holds me stagnant and I am not able to be productive, however, in learning and reading the stories of the Bible and how God uses people to help others it do encourages me to be a better person and although Eli was doing the works of the Lord, yet he did lose his life for the disobedience, but the understanding I am receiving is that although we may die there's still victory in death as it is in life. I find myself just wanting to learn more of God's teachings and wisdom because it do bring me some peace and comfort and it helps me to know that its not only about me. I must put him first in all that I do and his glory will manifest in me to be who I'm called to be in him.