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Assignment number 2

Eli was a prophet from Shiloh who had two sons of his own who were also priests. Eli seems to be a very merciful and understanding man. He is also the man who took care of Elkanah and Hannah's child Samuel. Eli seems to be a very wise man who knows and advocates for the word of God. His faith seemed to be very strong and he was a believer in God. This action showed in his kindness when Hannah was worried about trying to conceive. Eli made sure to reassure Hannah of God's grace and mercy. When he was talking with Hannah 1 Samuel 1:17 "Eli replied, "You may go home now and stop worrying. I'm sure the God of Israel will answer your prayer." This conversation shows that deep in his heart Eli knew that our Lord God is a merciful and loving God and even with a little faith anything is possible.

I can see the good in Eli as I learn more about his good deeds he did by Samuel. While Elkanah and Hannah went back to their hometown their son Samuel stayed behind and was raised by Eli. Eli raised Samuel to become a priest like the rest of his sons, anyone who is willing to take on the responsibility of watching a child who is not theirs is a good person. Even though Eli raised Samuel he also had two sons of his own. Eli's sons were negatively impacting Eli because his sons were disrespectful and arrogant. According to the Bible 1 Samuel 12:13 "Eli's sons were priests, but they were dishonest and refused to obey the Lord." However, Eli knowing how his sons were behaving and not stopping them or doing anything about it was wrong on Eli's behalf.

Eli also showed that he can be manipulative and the darker side of him comes out when needed. When Eli is scared that is when the aggression comes out which is not how priests or

prophets should behave. For example, Samuel 13:17 when he realizes God came to speak to Samuel Eli responded to him and said “ What did God say to you? Tell me everything. I pray God will punish you terribly if you do not tell me every word he said.” I notice the aggression in his tone which leads me to believe that we cannot categorize Eli as neither good or bad.

In my opinion It is not Eli who was at fault it was his sons who however, it was Eli’s job as a father and as a prophet and or priest to stop his sons whenever they were doing something wrong Eli seemed to be a man who was living in his emotions rather than his truth. Eli knew that God was going to punish him and kill his sons however in my opinion Eli was just scared. He seemed to be a timid man who did not necessarily stand up for what was right and did not admit when his family did wrong.