

# A Prophet Came to Eli

1 Samuel 2:27-36

## I. The Lord Sent a Message to Eli

**A. God directed Eli to review the larger context in which he found himself.** And *there came a man of God* unto Eli, *and said* unto him, *Thus saith the LORD*, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? (1 SAMUEL 2:27)

**1. God used prophets as He uses Scripture.** That *the LORD sent a prophet* unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, *Thus saith the LORD God of Israel*, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; (JUDGES 6:8)

**2. The prophets speak for God, not themselves.** For the *prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* (2 PETER 1:21)

**B. Remember all the marvelous benefits of being priests of the Living God.** And did *I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest*, to *offer* upon mine altar, to *burn* incense, to *wear* an ephod before me? and *did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?* (1 SAMUEL 2:28) SEE EXODUS 28 AND 39

## II What Went Wrong?

**A. Eli had the wrong priorities.** *Wherefore kick ye* at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my habitation*; *and honourest thy sons above me*, to *make yourselves fat* with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? (1 SAMUEL 2:29)

**1. Treating holy things as ordinary offends God.** But *ye have profaned it*, in that ye say, *The table of the LORD is polluted*; and the fruit thereof, *even his meat*, is contemptible. Ye said also, Behold, *what a weariness is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was torn*, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: *should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.* (MALACHI 1:12-13)

**2. Wrong priorities separate from God.** *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me:* and HE THAT LOVETH SON OR DAUGHTER MORE THAN ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME. (MATTHEW 10:37)

**3. Favoritism and fraud have no place in the church.** But *the wisdom that is from above is first pure*, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, *full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.* (JAMES 3:17)

**B. God explained how priorities work.** Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but **now the LORD saith**, Be it far from me; for **them that honour me I will honour**, and **they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.** (1 SAMUEL 2:30)

**1. God plays for keeps.** And **at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation**, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant *it*; **If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.** (JEREMIAH 18:9-10)

**2. Good and bad both follow a revealed pattern.** **Honour the LORD** with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: **So shall thy barns be filled** with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (PROVERBS 3:9-10)

**3. Excuses accuse.** A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his **master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?** and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. **And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?** (MALACHI 1:6)

**C. Blessings don't come automatically.** Behold, the days come, that **I will cut off thine arm**, and the arm of thy father's house, that **there shall not be an old man in thine house.** (1 SAMUEL 2:31)

**D. Bitter memory and envy can't bring back what God refuses to return.** And **thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation**, in all *the* wealth which God shall give Israel: and **there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.** (1 SAMUEL 2:32)

### III. Sin Affects More than the Sinner

**A. Even those who escape the primary disaster will display consequences.** And **the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off** from mine altar, **shall be to consume thine eyes**, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase **of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.** (1 SAMUEL 2:33) **PHINEHAS, THE SON OF ELEAZAR, THE SON OF AARON THE PRIEST, TURNED GOD'S WRATH IN NUMBERS 25.**

**B. Sin leads to death.** And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon **thy two sons**, on Hophni and Phinehas; **in one day they shall die both of them.** (1 SAMUEL 2:34) **ALONG WITH** And the ark of God was taken; and **the two** sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, **were slain.** (1 SAMUEL 4:11)

**C. There are no secret sins and there will be no unrewarded faithfulness.** Therefore **judge nothing before the time**, until **the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts:** and then shall every man have praise of God. (1 CORINTHIANS 4:5)

**D. No one is indispensable to God – Providence Can Not Be Overturned.** . And *I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind*: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. (1 SAMUEL 2:35)

**E. Poverty becomes the heritage in place of the treasures when faithlessness prevails.** And *it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread*, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread. (1 SAMUEL 2:36)