

“SAMUEL AND THE SONS OF ELI”

Note clear contrasting of a house rising and a house falling

Samuel: 2:11 --*ministers to the Lord*
Eli's sons: 2:12-17 --*great sin before the Lord*
Samuel: 2:18-21 --*ministers before the Lord / grows*
Eli's sons: 2:22-25 --*doing evil things*
Samuel: 2:26 --*growing in stature / favor with the Lord*
Eli's sons: 2:27-36 --*getting fat off offerings / to die on same day*

Eli-----Samuel-----Saul-----David

I Sam.1-2 3-7 8-31 2 Sam.

*Eli seems like a nice guy, but he has parenting problems! Note how his boys don't "know God" (2:11, recalls Jdgs. 2:10). Why tougher w/Hannah (1:14-16) than his "worthless" evil sons (2:12)?

*Eli is a perfect example of a permissive parent; and the national results are truly devastating, just as w/ Samuel and David.

*Eli's house will experience the "**reversal of fortune**" as w/Hannah and Peninnah, just as Hannah spoke in 2:1-10. Eli's judgment:
Eli had a special past (bondage to freedom to a chosen family)
Eli had a special opportunity ("to walk before Lord forever")
Eli now has a troubled future (son's will death and demotion)

*Note Samuel will mainly be a prophet (3:19,20), as the "faithful priest" (2:35) = Zadok and "his house" (2 Kgs. 8:17, 15:24).

1 Samuel begins with **Shiloh** as the spiritual center of the 12 tribes (Tabernacle / Ark there). Shiloh's spiritual importance began in Joshua 18 but is now full of corruption. Samuel will later judge from **Ramah** (7:17). **Jerusalem** will eventually be the center of religious life under King David.

**HOW'S YOUR HOUSE?
IS IT HEADING UP OR DOWN?**