

A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART
A study in I and II Samuel and the Psalms of David
AMEN Bible Study 2014-2015

The Lord Raises Up A Faithful Priest

I Samuel 2:12-3:21

September 18, 2014

- 2:11-21 **I. When church leaders are corrupt, God is at work.**
:12-17 A. Corrupt leaders treat God’s worship with contempt.
:12 1. Their behavior emanates from their character.
12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord.
:13-15 2. They violate the Word of God.
13 The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, 14and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest’s servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw.”
:16 3. They bully faithful believers.
16 And if the man said to him, “Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish,” he would say, “No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force.”
:17 4. They greatly offend God.
17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.
:18-21 B. God raises up and blesses new worshiping leaders.
:18-19 1. The godly take worship seriously.
18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. 19And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
:20-21a 2. The godly look to God for His blessing.
20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord.” So then they would return to their home. 21Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters.
:21b 3. The godly flourish.
And the young man Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord.
:22-25 C. Corrupt leaders ignore God’s law.
:22 1. They do outrageous things.
22 Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting.
:23-24 2. They scandalize the people.
23 And he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. 24 No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the Lord spreading abroad.

- :25a 3. They do not fear God.
25 If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?
- :25b 4. They do not accept correction.
But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death.
- :26 D. God raises up and blesses ethical leaders.
26 Now the young man Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man.

2:27-3:21 **II. When church leaders are corrupt, God judges them.**

- :27-29 A. God holds leaders accountable.
- :27a 1. He starts at the top.
27 And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him,
- :27b-28 2. He reminds us of our privileges.
"Thus the Lord has said, 'Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh? 28 Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incenses, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel.
- :29 3. He identifies our sin.
29 Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?'
- :30-36 B. God's judgments begin in God's house.
- :30-32 1. He breaks the legacy.
30 Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: "I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever," but now the Lord declares: "Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 31 Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32 Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever.
- :33-34 2. He brings misery and death.
33 The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. 34 And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day.
- :35-36 3. He raises up others.
35 And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever. 36 And everyone who is left in your house shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and shall say, "Please put me in one of the priest's places, that I may eat a morsel of bread."
- 3:1-21 C. God's judgments are announced by God's servants.
- :1 1. God's Word comes to God's servants.
I Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

:2-10

2. God's Word calls us to greater service.

2At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 3The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4Then the Lord called to Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" 5and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. 6And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the young man. 9Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

:11-15

3. God's Word is a heavy burden.

11Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever. 15Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

:16-18

4. God's Word must be faithfully communicated.

16But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." 17And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." 18So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."

:19-21

5. God strengthens His messengers.

19And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 10And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. 21And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.