

Eli: The Non-Confrontational Priest of God (Part 1)
1 Samuel 2:27-36

Thesis Statement:

Passivity and non-confrontation about sin in my relationship with God and others, and sin in others' relationship with me and God can lead to God and His Name being disgraced and devalued for the sake of my feelings and/or the sake of others' feelings.

- “And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD....”
 - The man of God is a man of confrontation. He has the responsibility to share the Word of God even when it isn't comfortable....*“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me” (Colossians 1:28-29; cf. Malachi 2:5-8).* He must share the full counsel of God's Word....*“Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:26-27; cf. Ezekiel 3:16-21).*
 - Eli and his sons had been called to the ministry of repentance and reconciliation. God *“had revealed Himself to the Levites”,* God had *“chosen the tribe of Levi to be His priests”,* and God *“gave provision”* to Levites through the sacrificial system. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).*
 - The priests were called to bring the tribes of Israel to the altar of grace and mercy (Leviticus 1:8-9). They were to perform as priests in obedience and this obedience would be a fragrant offering to God (Numbers 4:16). They dealt with all the sins of Israel as they came before God wearing the Ephod (Exodus 28:6-14; 39:4-7).
 - *“But Aaron and his sons made offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense for all the work of the Most Holy Place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded” (1 Chronicles 6:49).*
“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2).
 - Eli was honoring his sons above God by eating the stolen meat (1 Samuel 2:15), not making sure his sons burned the fat in honor to God (1 Samuel 2:16), not removing his sons from the priesthood for blaspheming God (1 Samuel 3:13) and waiting too long to address his sons' behavior (1 Samuel 2:23-24). Eli was non-confrontational. *“And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.” (2 Timothy 2:24-25)*
 - Despite this, Eli was raising, teaching, and training Samuel properly according to the Word (1 Samuel 2:18-19,26) and he was blessing those who were faithfully obeying God (1 Samuel 1:17; 2:20).
- “Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel declares....”
 - The conditional promise of families from the tribe of Levi serving generationally in their position is based on their faithfulness in holding that position (Exodus 27:21; 29:9). *“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it” (Genesis 4:7).* *“(Israel or any other nation) and if it does evil in My sight, not listening to My voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it” (Jeremiah 18:10).*
 - What does it mean that: *“God will cut off Eli's strength and the strength of Eli's fathers house”?*
 - 1) It means that they will be stripped of their authority as priests. 2) It means they will be removed suddenly and permanently. 3) It means that they will lose their influence as priests.

(continued →)

Worship: How Great Thou Art (Citizens)

Christ The Sure and Steady Anchor (Matt Boswell)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

4) It means that they will no longer have the opportunity to bring glory or shame to God's Name.

5) It means they will lose the abundance of the provision that comes from serving God. 6) It means they will also lose the blessing of a reward filled, long life by the sword.

- The bloodline of Eli and his sons, serving as priests is going to come to an end. The death of his sons is the sign that this shall come to pass (1 Samuel 2:34; 4:10-11). The fulfillment of this prophecy is seen in 1 Kings 2:27,35.
- God was going to "*raise up a priest that will be faithful and will do what is in His heart and His mind*".
 - At first glance it would be easy to assume that this prophecy is talking about Samuel or ultimately Christ, but on further review it is probably talking about the priests of Zadok that replace those from Eli's bloodline (1 Kings 2:35). They are the line of priests that will serve Christ, "my anointed" (1 Samuel 2:10), during Christ's Millennial Reign (Ezekiel 44:15; 48:11-12).