

## Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 2:27-36

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### 1 Samuel 2:27-36

#### Verses 27-29

***<sup>27</sup> Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor’s family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh? <sup>28</sup> I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your ancestor’s family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites. <sup>29</sup> Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?’”***

- “A man of God came to Eli.” This unnamed man was a prophet of God. A prophet is not a fortune teller. He is the one who says to God’s people, “This is what God says.” We know nothing about this man or his ministry. This may be the only time in his life when God uses him as a prophet. We do not know. But he goes to the High Priest of Israel and he boldly proclaims God’s word to the High Priest. His demeanor is respectful of the High Priest’s office. But he delivers the message God has given him to deliver without equivocation.
- YHWH does not speak directly to the High Priest because Eli knows full well that his sons are corrupt (see verses 12-26), and he has done nothing to change the situation.
- The message the man brings to Eli begins with a historical recitation. God reminds Eli that when Israel was still in Egypt, the family of Aaron, Moses’ brother, Eli’s own family, was chosen to be the family from which Israel’s priests would come. They were given favor before God, and He provided for them out of the offerings given to Him by the people of Israel. But now, Eli and his sons have disregarded the rules laid down by YHWH to govern their behavior as priests, and Eli did nothing to stop the corruption.

- By not confronting the problem, Eli was putting his sons above the Lord. He was allowing them to do what seemed right in their eyes rather than obey the word of the Lord.

### Verses 30-33

<sup>30</sup> ***“Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. <sup>31</sup> The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your priestly house, so that no one in it will reach old age, <sup>32</sup> and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, no one in your family line will ever reach old age. <sup>33</sup> Every one of you that I do not cut off from serving at my altar I will spare only to destroy your sight and sap your strength, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.*”**

- The prophet sent to Eli declares YHWH’s judgment on Eli and his house. Though God had promised that Aaron’s family would be Israel’s priests, Eli and his branch of the family would be excluded.
- Because Eli and his sons had no regard for the word of the Lord, their line would be cut off. Eli’s strength would fail. No one in his family would live long. All his descendants would be cut off from priestly office.
- God would continue to bless his people, but because Eli and his sons had put themselves higher than God and God’s word, they would all die before their time. YHWH would not honor those who chose themselves over Him.

### Verses 34-36

<sup>34</sup> ***“And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day. <sup>35</sup> I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always. <sup>36</sup> Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread and plead, ‘Appoint me to some priestly office so I can have food to eat.’”*”**

- The prophet offers Eli a sign, proof that what he says is from God. The sign is this; both Eli’s sons will die on the same day.
- Following their deaths, God will raise up a faithful High Priest from the family of Aaron, but not from Eli’s line. This new High Priest will seek to please God by obeying God’s word. This new High Priest will serve faithfully

during the time of Israel's kings. This prophecy came true. Zadok became Israel's High Priest following Eli's death. His family held this office until Antiochus IV sold the office of High Priest to Menelaus who was not even of Aaron's family line.

- Eli's family was cast out after the death of Eli and the judgment of God on his line. No member of his family held priestly office again. God's judgment fell on Eli and his family because they disregarded the word of the Lord.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Samuel 2:27-36. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)