

1 Samuel 2.12-36

The Enemy Within

POGO “I have SEEN the ENEMY and it is US!”

Greatest HINDERANCE to Spread GOSPEL > OUR MISBEHAVIOR

Don't NEED to jog Memory w/ NAMES of Fallen, Hypocritical Pastors

NAME – Mark Blair comes FIRST to MY MIND > Can't Imagine telling Church

Like Paul to Corinth – “Follow ME, as I Follow Christ” 1 Corinthians 11.1

BIRTH Narrative FAMOUS Leader of ISRAEL > SAMUEL

GIFT of God > ANSWER to FERVENT Prayers of MOTHER – HANNAH

Chapter 2 begins with EARTH-QUAKING Prayer of Hannah.....

Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth;

for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed...

The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up...

The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts...

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.

1 Samuel 2.3,6-8

UNFORTUNATELY Seismic SHIFT is NOT between Israel & Pagan Neighbors

But CHASM would RIP right ACROSS Nation of ISRAEL

Samuel would FEAR GOD as HOLY and FOLLOW Him in FAITH

SONS of High Priest would USE their God-Given Position for GREED & SELF

1. Careless Patriarch

a. Father of Nation

ELI was HIGH PRIEST of Nation – IMPORTANT Leader, NO KING Yet

HEBREW Bible – SAMUEL (No 1st & 2nd Division) FOLLOWS JUDGES

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 21.25

NO King to LEAD in GOD'S TRUTH and ORDER for the HOLY NATION

²⁷ And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, '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 incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel.

MAN of GOD – Not Named – God NOT LEFT His People without WITNESS

LIVING MESSENGERS before there was WRITTEN WORD for God's People

REMINDS Eli of GODLY HERITAGE and RESPONSIBILITY > Line of AARON

PRIVILEGED Position made ELI grow LAZY and CARELESS in His DUTIES

I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you... 2 Timothy 1.6

b. Father of Sons

ELI Needed to LEAD his Sons for THEIR Good AND the Good of the NATION

"Is there ANY EXAMPLE of a GOOD DAD in ALL the BIBLE"?? NOT ELI!

²² Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel... ²³ And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. ²⁴ No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad.

FIRST Question – WHERE is ELI? Why does he ONLY HEAR about SONS?

ELI – High Priest – RESPONSIBLE to ACT "*Somebody* should DO Something!"

BOYS – NEVER STOP be his CHILDREN, do NOT need be his COLLEAGUES

INDULGENT Father DISHONORED GOD the HOLY Father of the NATION
 MAN of God brings the SOLEMN SENTENCE of Judgment

29 Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?’

Sobering words for me as FATHER of 3 Sons -

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach...He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?
 1 Timothy 3.2,4,5

2. Corrupt Priests

a. Greed

PEOPLE of God Approached HOLY God thru ANIMAL Sacrifices

BLOOD – DEADLY Effects of Sin / Pointed FORWARD to Christ’s CROSS

Leviticus – Details Different Sacrifices / Sins / Thanksgiving / Restoration

PRIESTS – Line of Aaron – Had no LAND in ISRAEL / Portions of Sacrifices

Clear DETAILS of WHAT Belonged to GOD and what to the PRIESTS

BURNT	PEACE	SIN	GUILT
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1. Worshipper “draws near” to God bringing:

Male bull, sheep, goat, dove, or pigeon 1.5,10,14	Domestic animal, male or female 3.1,6,12	<i>Priest or Group:</i> Young Bull 4.2 <i>Leader:</i> Male Goat 4.22 <i>Citizen:</i> Female Goat or Lamb 4.27	Ram, plus silver 5.15
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2. Worshipper lays hand on prescribed victim
3. Worshipper kills the prescribed victim
4. Priest puts the animal blood:

Against altar on all sides 1.5,11; Drains blood of birds on all sides	Against altar on all sides 3.2,8	<i>Priest or Group:</i> On horns of incense altar 4.6,17 <i>Citizens:</i> On horns of main altar 4.25,30	Against altar on all sides 7.2
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5. On the altar, the priest burns

Whole animal or bird 1.9,13,17	Specific parts 3.3,9,14	Same as peace offering 4.8-10	Specific parts 7.3
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6. Disposal of the remaining carcass

Hide goes to Priest 7.8	Some to priest 7.31-34, rest eaten by worshippers 7.15-21	<i>Priest or Group:</i> Burnt outside camp 4.11,21 <i>Citizen:</i> Eaten by Priests 6.25,29	Eaten by Priests 7.6
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PEACE or Thanksgiving Offering – Not for ATONEMENT but PRAISE

That OFFERING Giver has JOY of EATING Part of MEAT with Friends, Family

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, ¹⁴ and 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. ¹⁵ Moreover, 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 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 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.

LIKE a PASTOR reaching GRUBBY HANDS into OFFERING

And PULLING OUT FIST-FULLS of MONEY

WHY Man of God REBUKED their Dad for IGNORING this Gross VIOLATION
SONS and their BULLIES Ignored Clear DIRECTIVE of SCRIPTURE

INSULTED the DEVOTION and CELEBRATION of the FAITHFUL ONES

b. Girls – Temptation of GREED, and of GIRLS

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.

Women part of TEAM of WORSHIP in TABERNACLE of GOD

He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of meeting. Exodus 38.8

DANGER in SPIRITUAL POWER > Wonderful, Joyous Meeting with God

OPEN your EYES after the AMEN > Connect FEELING with Person you SEE!

KEEP Our EYES on GOD > HE is the SOURCE of JOY and Good FEELINGS

LARGE Pastors Conf in HOTEL near CHICAGO > Several Thousand Pastors
 AFTER Over > HOTEL Mgmt called Conf Org “Please come back NEXT Year!”
 Pastors SO GOOD? ... “Never made so much money on IN ROOM Adult Movies!”

c. Guilt

.²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death.

DISPUTE between PEOPLE > God stands OUTSIDE and is IMPARTIAL

Against GOD > NO OTHER MEDIATOR / ARBITRATOR – Beyond HOPE

THEIR Sin was RESULT of God’s JUDGMENT

Hophni and Phineas experienced the fate of men who deliberately sin against the light, who love their lusts so well that nothing will induce them to fight against them; they were so hardened that repentance became impossible, and it was necessary for them to undergo the full retribution of their wickedness. W.G. Blaikie

REASON they HAD NO DESIRE to HONOR God – Did NOT KNOW Him

¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.

WAGES of SIN= DEATH: SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, & HORRIBLY ETERNAL

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.

YOU CAN Read the DETAILS in Chapter 4

3. Child of Promise

DARK Deeds of CORRUPT Sons > Contrasted with Glimpse of SAMUEL

a. God's Plan

Must have SEEMED to People of God in ISRAEL >

HOPELESS World, Far from God, Out of CONTROL

God has a FOREVER Plan – esp for THOSE who HONOR Him

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.

Great Moment in film "Chariots of Fire" Eric Liddell Sabbath-Keeping Scot

HONORED God in by REFUSING to RUN on the Sabbath Day

NOW preparing to Run on Weekday > American Competitor gave Eric Note

"The Good Book says – Those who HONOR Me, I will HONOR!" > Eric WON!

b. God's Patience

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 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.

GOD could have JUSTLY Struck DOWN these EVIL SONS in Moment of Fire

Patently ALLOWED Sin's Consequences to Work themselves OUT in their Death

FAITHFUL Worshipper in Israel during REGIME of High Priest ELI

Must have been DISGUSTED by Wicked SONS – Greed, Immorality, Selfish

HONOR of God – TRAMPLED in the MUD of HUMAN DEGRADATION

I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. Revelation 6.9-11

How we WANT God to DO SOMETHING in this EVIL World > Strike Down Sin

People in ISRAEL went to their GRAVE NOT SEEING Justice of God Displayed

B 17 BOMBING Raid over GERMAN City during WW 2

NAZI Anti-Aircraft Flak hit GAS TANKS of Bomber > but NO Fire, Explosion

Plane LANDED Safely behind ALLIED Lines – Looked at Plane’s Gas Tank

Found DOZEN UNEXPLODED Shells – No Explosive Charge – EMPTY Shells

One contained NOTE from Czech PRISONER whom Nazi’s forced to Make Bomb

“This is all we can do for you now!”

Could NOT Assassinate HITLER – Destroy Bomb Factory – END the WAR

But did their LITTLE PART in Hope – God would work His Saving PLAN Out

c. God’s Promised One - Saving Plan will Come to Pass thru Promised One

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. ¹⁹ And 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 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.

²¹ Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.

FAITHFUL Mother HANNAH – Leaving the Story NOW – Blessed by GOD

BARREN Woman – Six Children – First Priest, Prophet, Judge, Crown the King

SMARTLY Dressed in PRIESTS Garments / Sons of Priest bring SHAME to God

GOD has a RIGHTEOUS PRIESTHOOD – Line of FAITHFUL SERVANTS

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.

SAMUEL? Yes...sons fail / DAVID? Yes...sons fail / SOLOMON? Yes...sons fail

ALL HEROES – FAINT & IMPERFECT Reflection of God / LIKE US!

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.

FULLNESS of Time – God SENT FORTH His Son – Desire of Nations

FULFILLMENT of Ages – All Promises of God, Yes and Amen in HIM

LUKE tells us TWICE so we’ll get it CLEARLY – HE is our GUY!!

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him....⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
Luke 2

JESUS the Faithful ONE – PROPHET – PRIEST and KING Serve FOREVER!

¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD. 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, ¹⁴ and 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. ¹⁵ Moreover, 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 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 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 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. ¹⁹ And 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 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. ²¹ Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD. 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 And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. ²⁴ No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. ²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" 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 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man. ²⁷ And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, '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 incense, 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 Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?' 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 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 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 priests' places, that I may eat a morsel of bread."'"