

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 31, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 2:27-36

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 2:35

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:27-29.** Coming right after we learn of the absolute disregard that Eli's sons have for the Lord, we see an unnamed prophet of God (2 Kings 1:9) come and give the Lords judgment against Eli and his sons for what they have done. In our section today, we will see what has caused judgment to come against Eli and what we can learn from Eli's poor example.

(b) What is this reminder that the Lord gives to Eli at the beginning of the judgment (Exodus 28:1-3)? How does starting at the beginning of the Levitical priesthood add significance to the judgment? What were some of the differing jobs that a priest would do (Exodus 10:24; 30:7-9; 28:1-6)?

(c) What point is the Lord trying to make in verses 27-28? How should someone who has been chosen and given such an honorable position respond to the one who has given it? What does the scripture say about what God has given to us (Romans 5:5, 15; 1 Corinthians 1:4; 2:12; 12:7-9; Ephesians 3:2; 1 John 3:1)?

(d) What do we know from earlier in this chapter that Eli's sons were involved in (vv. 12-17)? How has Eli scorned the Lord? Which of the ten commandments would Eli be guilty of (Exodus 20)? How can we fall into a pattern of dishonoring the Lord for the love of comfort, food, wealth, approval, entertainment, or peace? Ask the Lord today in a few minutes of silence to reveal any areas that you might be failing to honor the Lord in.

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:27-29. How has Eli scorned the Lord? Which of the ten commandments would Eli be guilty of (Exodus 20)? How can we fall into a pattern of dishonoring the Lord for the love of comfort, food, wealth, approval, entertainment, or peace? Ask the Lord today in a few minutes of silence to reveal any areas that you might be failing to honor the Lord in.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:30.** God at the beginning of this verse reminds Eli for a third time what He has done and promised for him and the line of Aaron. (see Exodus 29:9; Numbers 25:13) This is about to change. What have we already seen in Hannah's song at the beginning of this chapter that lets us know why God has the right to revoke an agreement?

(b) The phrase "far be it from me" (ESV) which the Lord uses to pronounce His judgment is only used by God once in the whole Bible. See 1 Sam 12:23, 14:45; 20:2, 9 for some examples of how it is used. How severe is God's language in this judgment against Eli? What does this tell us about what value God placed on His priests being faithful to Him?

(c) Why would Eli's dishonoring of God cause such anger from the Lord (Exodus 28:38; Numbers 18:1-7)? How is it that we now take a similar role to the priests (1 Peter 2:5,9; 1Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:16)? What happens when we fail to be an example of God's grace or apply God's grace to each other? To people outside the church? What could you do this week to share God's grace or apply God's grace to someone around you?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:30. Who does Eli represent as a priest of God? Do you think that God had a right to be so angry at Eli for this? How do we act as examples of God to other people (1 Timothy 1:16)? How could you be an example of God's grace to other people today? Ask God to help you by showing you an opportunity to be a witness of His love to others today.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:31-32.** Two things are helpful in understanding these two verses and the effect it must have had upon Eli. Elders within ancient cultures were highly respected (as they should be still) and took on roles of authority within society. Also, the temple's prosperity often went hand in hand with the nation's prosperity, which in turn meant the priests prosperity went along with the temple's.

(b) Having these two bits of information, what would these verses have meant to Eli? Verse 31 literally says, "I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house." What does it seem that the arm symbolizes? How long will this judgment last upon Eli and his descendants (1 Samuel 22:18-20)?

(c) The metaphor for cutting off is used in Romans with regards to the olive tree of God's people. Israel is cut off and the church is grafted in. What warning does Paul give us in Romans 11:17-24? How is Israel experiencing a judgment similar to Eli (Romans 11:11-12)? What should our reaction be when we read either Romans or Eli's story? What is it that keeps us from being like Eli in honoring other things or people above God (Romans 11:33-36)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:33-34.** Two prophecies of judgment are given in this passage. Both of these we see fulfilled in 1 Samuel. Verse 33 is fulfilled in 1 Samuel 21-22 as result of David seeking sustenance from the priest Ahimelech. Read 1 Samuel 22:11-23. Explain how the prophecy is fulfilled. Nowhere in the story is the Lord acting directly, but what does the fulfillment of His judgment tell us about His will over the events of our lives?

(b) Verse 34 is fulfilled much sooner than the previous judgment. Chapter 4 of 1 Samuel relates the story of the demise of Hophni and Phineas. What does the fulfillment of these two judgments and the other stories that we have already covered in 1 Samuel tell us about God?

(c) Why is it that even in verses like these, that have such a negative end, that we can find encouragement and hope in God (1 Peter 1:17-21, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10)? What would we have to say about God if He was not faithful to punish those who profaned His name or committed evil acts against His creation?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:31-34. What does it say about God that He is able to make a statement about something in the future and then see that it happen? How powerful is God? How would knowing this help us when times are hard? Thank God that nothing is outside of His control and that He is good and faithful to His children.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:35-36.** Any ideas who this faithful priest will be? Read 1 Kings 2:26-27, 35. Who is it that replaces Abiathar (who is a descendant of Eli) as High Priest? After the Exile of Israel, when Nehemiah returns who are the priests who serve in the temple (Nehemiah 11:10-12)?

(b) Who is it that becomes the anointed of the Lord (1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 22:51)? David does not live forever, but how does God promise that David's house will be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16)? Who ultimately fulfills this promise (Luke 1:32, 69)?

(c) In this judgment against Eli, there are many strands of stories to come that are beginning to be woven by God. The world so often wants to say things happen at random or without purpose. It is easy when battered by the struggles of this world to lose sight that we worship the Lord who is the great weaver. Take some time today and reflect upon this simple truth and picture of God as the great weaver of time and events. Pray and thank Him for His great and mighty hand.

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:35-36 and Philippians 2:5-11. How are we to have a mind like God? What are ways in which we can live this out? What could you do to serve and love others in your family like Christ?

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Do you have anything that is keeping you from being faithful to the Lord? What are those things that pull your time, attentions and talents from God? What are ways that you minister for the Lord? Would you call yourself faithful? Pray that the Lord would show you where you need to be faithful to Him.

DATE: January 31, 2010

PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 2:27-63

A Punishment and a Promise

"I will raise up for myself a faithful priest"