

**SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS**

GODLY LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF GOD AND THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

**TITLE:** consistency, conviction, consent, contempt

**TEXT:** 1 SAMUEL 1-4

## **CONSISTENCY, CONVICTION, CONSENT, CONTEMPT**

Judges 21:25

*In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.*

### **A Man's Godly Consistency - Elkanah**

- A prominent Levite
- **Faithful to the service of the Lord**
- Annual pilgrimage to either the feast of unleavened bread or the festival of gathering the wine
- Loved Hannah – had no children by her.

1 Sam 1:3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh

### **A Woman's Prayer of Conviction - Hannah**

- She was persecuted and tormented by his other wife because she had born children, yet her husband loved Hannah more
- **Consistent in seeking of the Lord**
- At the sanctuary she is praying for a child.

#### **○ Her Prayer of Grief**

1 Sam. 1:11

*"LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."*

- Eli thinks she is drunk but sees she is not so blesses her
- She gives birth to Samuel and dedicates him to service in the Tabernacle after he is weened.

## ○ Her Prayer of Gratitude

*1 Sam. 2:2 - "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.*

*1 Sam. 2:10 "It is not by strength that one prevails; <sup>10</sup> those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."*

- She has five children after Samuel.

## A Priest's Complacent Consent - Eli

### ○ Judge and High Priest

- Eli was a descendant of Ithamar, the fourth and youngest son of Aaron the High Priest. He became High Priest (*Kohen Godol*) after the death of Pinehas, the son of Eleazar, Ithamar's older brother.
- We are not told why Eli succeeded to the High Priesthood, instead of Pinehas's son.
- But the priesthood skipped away from Pinehas's son to Eli.

Eli was also the only one in those early days in the history of our people who wore two crowns, for he was both Judge (*Shofet*) and High Priest.

- He became judge at the age of 58 years, after the death of Samson (Shimshon) in the year 2830 (or 2831), holding this office for forty years, until his tragic death at the age of 98 years.

Served in Shiloh

- In those days the Mishkan (Sanctuary) stood in Shiloh, which was the center of the religious life of the people.
- **Steadfast in the routines of the Sanctuary, but not honoring the Lord**
- There was the residence of Eli, the High Priest
- Had two sons who were not walking as they should and though he speaks to them.... He does not deal with them!

*1 Samuel 2:25, 29 - If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the LORD, who will intercede for them? ... 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?*

- This ends up causing catastrophe for the people, for his sons, for the symbol of God's presence being removed and for the lifting of God's blessing.

## **A Man of God's Words of Courage**

1 Sam.2:27- 36

- We know nothing of this man.
- We know that he heard from the Lord.
- We know that he was obedient to deliver a message that would not be welcome.
- He would be speaking to authority.
- He was faithful – he was a man of God.
- Faithful to bring a word when the Lord calls.
- Reason
  - Why do you honor your sons more than me?
  - the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.'
- Result
  - His house will be cut off from serving in the House of the Lord.
  - His sons would die.
  - He will raise up a faithful priest who will do according to what is in my heart and mind.

This is a picture of godly leadership.  
Here is a prophet being obedient.

1 Samuel 2:30, 35

*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 ... I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind.'*

## **A Boy's Calling to God - 1Sam 3**

1 Sam 3:1, 10,19-21

*In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. ...*

*Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening. ..."*

<sup>19</sup> *The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.* <sup>20</sup> *And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a*

prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

- **Close to the Lord**
- **Serving the Lord**
- **Serving in the Church**
- **Listening**
- **Answering**
- **Obedient**

## **A prophet and a Priest**

### **Men's corrupt contempt for the things of God - Hophni and Phineas**

- 1 Sam. 2: - <sup>12</sup> *Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD.*
- <sup>17</sup> *This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.*
- <sup>25</sup> *His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke,*
- 1 Samuel 4:3 - *Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."*
  - Taking the fat portion from the sacrifices –
  - **Treating the Lord's offering with contempt**
  - **Treating the Lord's sanctuary with contempt – sleeping with the women who served at the sanctuary.**
  - **Treated the Lord's Glory with contempt – taking the ark of the covenant out of the sanctuary.**
- Eli's poor handling of it
  - *"Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.*
  - <sup>25</sup> *If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the LORD, who will intercede for them?"*
  - People get upset when someone is asked to step down from service or ministry in the church because of undealt with sin. This passage is one reason why such things are dealt with.
  - They did not listen.

### **Ichabod – the glory of the Lord has departed.**

- Battle fails – Hophni and Phineas die.
  - Ark is taken.
- Eli dies – falls off chair and breaks his neck.

- Phinehas's wife dies in childbirth and name the child Ichabod.

### **The house of God is to be honored as it is dedicated unto the Lord**

- Elkanah is faithful to the house of the Lord.
- Hannah is faithful to the Lord.
- Samuel is faithful to the Lord.

### **The household you raise is to be dedicated to the Lord**

Eli, Samuel and David all do service unto the Lord but fail to raise their children to do what is right

- It reminds us that the work of parenting is as challenging as every other occupation but far more emotionally intense.
- No solution is given in the text, but we can observe that Eli, Samuel, and David seem to have given their troubled children many privileges but little paternal involvement.
- Yet we also know that even the most dedicated parents may face the heartbreak of wayward children.
- Rather than laying blame or stereotyping causes, let us simply note that parenting children is an occupation requiring as much prayer, skill, community support, good fortune, and love as any other, if not more.
- Ultimately to be a parent—whether our children bring delight, disappointment, or some of both—is to depend on God's grace and mercy and to hope for a redemption beyond what we see during our lifetimes.

### **Our prayer is that the Glory of the Lord will not depart from us.**

- That he will not pass over us, replace us, depart from us.
- Let us not be Ichabod.
- We must handle the words of God, the work of God and our walk with God with conviction and calling and not with contempt.