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## Kings and Prophets

1 Samuel 2

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Samuel chapter 2, Samuel starts to grow in the Lord. At the same time, the sons of Eli that are supposed to be taking over the ministry for Eli are turning away from God. Their desire for roasted meat over boiled meat and rejection of God brings swift and decisive punishment on them. In contrast, Samuel grows in the Lord, honoring Him and striving to do His work. This chapter can raise many questions about our walk with God. One of those questions includes how can we keep our focus on honoring God, and not on comforting ourselves. Ultimately, we will seek to answer how we can have an effective ministry honoring God and bringing glory to Him.



## Read 1 Samuel 2 (NET)

Hannah prayed,  
“My heart rejoices in the Lord;  
my horn is exalted high because of the Lord.  
I loudly denounce my enemies,  
for I am happy that you delivered me.  
<sup>2</sup> No one is holy like the Lord!  
There is no one other than you!  
There is no rock like our God!  
<sup>3</sup> Don’t keep speaking so arrogantly,  
letting proud talk come out of your mouth!  
For the Lord is a God who knows;  
he evaluates what people do.  
<sup>4</sup> The bows of warriors are shattered,  
but those who stumble find their strength reinforced.  
<sup>5</sup> Those who are well-fed hire themselves out to  
earn food, but the hungry no longer lack.  
Even the barren woman gives birth to seven,  
but the one with many children withers away.  
<sup>6</sup> The Lord both kills and gives life;  
he brings down to the grave and raises up.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord impoverishes and makes wealthy;  
he humbles and he exalts.  
<sup>8</sup> He lifts the weak from the dust;  
he raises the poor from the ash heap  
to seat them with princes  
and to bestow on them an honored position.  
The foundations of the earth belong to the Lord,  
and he has placed the world on them.  
<sup>9</sup> He watches over his holy ones,  
but the wicked are made speechless in the  
darkness, for it is not by one’s own strength that  
one prevails.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord shatters his adversaries;  
he thunders against them from the heavens.  
The Lord executes judgment to the ends of the  
earth. He will strengthen his king  
and exalt the power of his anointed one.”

<sup>11</sup> Then Elkanah went back home to Ramah. But the  
boy was serving the Lord under the supervision of  
Eli the priest.

<sup>12</sup> The sons of Eli were wicked men. They did not  
recognize the Lord’s authority. <sup>13</sup> Now the priests  
would always treat the people in the following way:  
Whenever anyone was making a sacrifice, while the  
meat was boiling, the priest’s attendant would come  
with a three-pronged fork in his hand. <sup>14</sup> He would  
jab it into the basin, kettle, cauldron, or pot, and  
everything that the fork brought up the priest would  
take for himself. This is what they used to do to all  
the Israelites when they came there to Shiloh.

<sup>15</sup> Even before they burned the fat, the priest’s  
attendant would come and say to the person who  
was making the sacrifice, “Hand over some meat for  
the priest to roast! He won’t take boiled meat from  
you, but only raw.” <sup>16</sup> If the individual said to him,  
“First let the fat be burned away, and then take for  
yourself whatever you wish,” he would say, “No!  
Hand it over right now! If you don’t, I will take it  
forcibly!”

<sup>17</sup> The sin of these young men was very great in the  
Lord’s sight, for they treated the Lord’s offering with  
contempt.

<sup>18</sup> Now Samuel was ministering before the Lord. The  
boy was dressed in a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother  
used to make him a small robe and bring it up to  
him at regular intervals when she would go up with  
her husband to make the annual sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Eli  
would bless Elkanah and his wife saying, “May the  
Lord raise up for you descendants from this woman  
to replace the one that she dedicated to the Lord.”  
Then they would go to their home. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord  
graciously attended to Hannah, and she was able to  
conceive and gave birth to three sons and two  
daughters. The boy Samuel grew up at the Lord’s  
sanctuary.

<sup>22</sup> Now Eli was very old when he heard about  
everything that his sons used to do to all the people  
of Israel and how they used to have sex with the  
women who were stationed at the entrance to the  
tent of meeting. <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Why do you  
behave in this way? For I hear about these evil  
things from all these people. <sup>24</sup> This ought not to be,  
my sons! For the report that I hear circulating  
among the Lord’s people is not good. <sup>25</sup> If a man  
sins against a man, one may appeal to God on his  
behalf. But if a man sins against the Lord, who then  
will intercede for him?” But Eli’s sons would not  
listen to their father, for the Lord had decided to kill  
them.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel was growing up and finding  
favor both with the Lord and with people.

The Lord Judges the House of Eli

<sup>27</sup> A man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This  
is what the Lord says: ‘Did I not plainly reveal  
myself to your ancestor’s house when they were in  
Egypt in the house of Pharaoh?’ <sup>28</sup> I chose your  
ancestor from all the tribes of Israel to be my priest,  
to offer sacrifice on my altar, to burn incense, and to  
bear the ephod before me. I gave to your ancestor’s  
house all the fire offerings made by the Israelites. <sup>29</sup>  
Why are you scorning my sacrifice and my offering  
that I commanded for my dwelling place? You have

honored your sons more than you have me by having made yourselves fat from the best parts of all the offerings of my people Israel.'

<sup>30</sup> Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'I really did say that your house and your ancestor's house would serve me forever.' But now the Lord says, 'May it never be! For I will honor those who honor me, but those who despise me will be cursed!

<sup>31</sup> In fact, days are coming when I will remove your strength and the strength of your father's house. There will not be an old man in your house! <sup>32</sup> You will see trouble in my dwelling place! Israel will experience blessings, but there will not be an old man in your house for all time. <sup>33</sup> Any one of you

that I do not cut off from my altar, I will cause your eyes to fail and will cause you grief. All of those born to your family will die in the prime of life. <sup>34</sup> This will be a confirming sign for you that will be fulfilled through your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: in a single day they both will die! <sup>35</sup> Then I will raise up for myself a faithful priest. He will do what is in my heart and soul. I will build for him a secure dynasty and he will serve my chosen one for all time.

<sup>36</sup> Everyone who remains in your house will come to bow before him for a little money and for a scrap of bread. Each will say, 'Assign me to a priestly task so I can eat a scrap of bread.'"

### **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. What was the motive of Eli's sons to take the meat of the sacrifice when they did?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Did the priest have the right to take some of the meat? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Why is Eli punished for the behavior of his sons?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. In verse 25, Eli tells his sons that there is no mediator for their sin. Who was supposed to be the mediator for all the people in the Old Testament? Who is our mediator now? (Read Hebrews 9:11-15)

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

12. Where has God used you to do ministry?

13. In what ways have you seen it important in your life to keep the focus on God and less on you?

14. Eli was unsuccessful at passing his faith on to his children. What are some ways that we can instill our faith in God in our children?

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **SERMON NOTES**