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The Sons of ‘Eli and the Call of Samuel
First Samuel 2:12 to 4:1a



This section has two purposes: First, to articulate the legitimacy of **Samuel** as “the leader” of **Isra’el** in the crisis to come, and secondly, to discredit the failed leadership of **the house of ‘Eli**. We have seen in **1:1-28** (**to see link click Ah – A Woman’s Prayer is Answered**) that **Samuel** was a special gift *from* **God** (to **Hannah**) and a special gift back *to* **God** (from **Hannah**). The story of **Chapters 1-3** wants us to understand that **Samuel’s** origin and **his** destiny are directly from **ADONAI’s** hand and for **ADONAI’s** purpose. The account of **Samuel’s** rise to power in **2:12** to **4:1a** is no ordinary historical report, but is a witness to how **the LORD’s** intent in **Isra’el** is fulfilled. Part of the working out of **God’s** intent was to eliminate **the** wicked **house of ‘Eli**, and call the young **Samuel** to be the first **prophet** and the last **judge** of **Isra’el**.[63] **Samuel** grew up under the tutelage of an ineffective **high priest** and **his two** wicked **sons**. But **YHVH** protected **Samuel** at **Shiloh** as **He** protected **Joseph** in **Egypt**. The text alternates between the wickedness of **the house of ‘Eli** and the faithfulness of **Samuel**.

‘Eli’s Wicked Sons – 2:12-17 (Ar)

The Faithfulness of Samuel and His Parents – 2:18-21 (As)

‘Eli’s Ineffective Rebuke of His Sons – 2:22-26 (At)

God’s Rejection of ‘Eli’s House – 2:27-36 (Au)

Here I Am – 3:1 to 4:1a (Av)