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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](#))



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'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](#))