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The Sons of 'Eli

First Samuel 2: 12-36



Up to this point, the focus has been on **Elkanah** and **his** family (to see link click [Ag - The Birth and Dedication of Samuel](#)), but it will now switch to **'Eli** and **his** family.

Throughout this section you will see a deliberate contrast between **Samuel** and the two sons of **'Eli**, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**. While **Samuel** was growing in favor with both **ADONAI** and with men (2:26), **'Eli's two sons**, who also served as **priests**, were growing in wickedness. **They** abused **their** privileges when it came to eating the portion of the sacrifices given to the **priests** (**Deuteronomy 18:3-5**), and even had sex with the **women who served at the entrance of the Tabernacle** (**Exodus 38:8**). Because of **their** wickedness, **Ha'Shem** determined that the **house of 'Eli** would forfeit **their priesthood** (see [Au - God's Rejection of 'Eli's House](#)).⁶⁴ From a human point of view, it looked like **'Eli's evil sons** were getting away with **their** rebellion, but **ADONAI** was preparing judgment for **them** while **He** was preparing **His** servant **Samuel** to continue **His** sovereign will. This reminds us that **YHVH** is always at work behind the scenes, so that even amid wickedness and unbelief there is always hope for grace.⁶⁴