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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]