

## **Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:11-30**

### **Those who despise me (God) shall be lightly esteemed.**

Eli was the priest at the temple of Jerusalem. It was with him that Hannah dedicated Samuel to the service of God. Eli had two sons by the name Hophni and Phinehas. They both behaved selfishly in their own lust concerning the worship that was given to God in His temple. They ill treated the sacrifices made God. They committed adultery in the courts of the tabernacle. They despised the counsel of Eli their father. God was angry and He sent His prophet to warn Eli concerning them. Even after being warned they turned not from their wicked ways. God said to Eli, "I indeed said that your house and the house of your father will walk before me forever. But now, far be it from me. For those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed".

### **Question:**

The children of Eli did not repent even though he counseled them. What mistake did Eli do? Why did God punish Eli?

### **Answer:**

When Eli was full of age, he designated his children in the position of priests. When Eli got to know the sins his children had committed against the Israelites in the temple, he did not remove them from that position. He called them and said, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my son for it is not a good report that I hear. You make the Lord's people transgress. If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?" even after such a strong counsel they did not repent. Even Eli did not remove them from that position. That was Eli's biggest mistake. Dear children, do not sin and despise God. That will turn out to be a curse for the entire family.

"A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you priests who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, "How have we shown contempt for your name?" Malachi 1:6

### **Prayer**

Unlike Hophni and Phinehas, we will obey our parents, elders and our Lord Jesus Christ. We will please our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen