

## **Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 4:1-18**

### **Sins of Omission (Not doing what has to be done)**

God began use Samuel to guide and lead the people of Israel. But even then, Eli and his sons were the priests at the temple. When Eli received warnings from God concerning his sons, he called his sons and rebuked them but did not remove them from the position of ministering at the temple. Therefore, their sins increased even more. At that time the Philistines came against Israel and killed 4000 Israelites the same day. They immediately sent word to bring the Ark of the Covenant. Hophni and Phinehas carried the Ark of the Covenant and came to the battle. That day, 3000 Israelites were killed and the Philistines took with them the Ark of the Covenant. Even Hophni and Phinehas were killed in that battle. When Eli heard the news about the Ark of the Covenant taken by the enemies, he instantly fell down and died.

### **Question:**

Yesterday we saw the reason why God rebuked Eli. Here we see many Israelites being killed and also the Ark of the Covenant being captured by the Philistines. What's the reason?

### **Answer:**

Though there was a priest in the temple to look after the things of God, all the 12 tribes of Israel had 12 leaders over them to inquire them and bring them justice. It was the responsibility of the 12 leaders to have spoken to Eli and removed his children from the temple responsibilities after they heard the accusations against them. But since they all were caught up with their own duties and interests, the devil found way through the unholy acts they committed and led the people of Israel into bondage. Dear brother/sister, we give room to the devil not just when we sin but also when we fail to work towards that which has to be sanctified. Therefore, be watchful and cautious.

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." Genesis 4:7

### **Prayer**

We will guard holiness in our body which is the temple of God. We shall not lie, be bitter, lust after or do things that would hurt others. Amen