

I. The Family of Eli (2:12–17, 22–25, 27–36): Eli the priest has two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas.

A. Their wickedness (2:12–17, 22)

1. They are guilty of impiety (2:12, 17).
2. They are guilty of intimidation (2:13–16).
3. They are guilty of immorality (2:22).

B. Their warning (2:23–25, 27–36)

1. From the parent (2:23–25): Eli attempts to correct his rebellious sons, but it is too late.
2. From the prophet (2:27–36): Finally a prophet warns Eli of the consequences of his family's behavior: They will no longer serve as priests, and Eli's two sons will die on the same day.

II. God calls Samuel to deliver a message of judgment against Eli's family.

A. The Anointed (3:1–21): Samuel has already been chosen by God to replace Eli as the spiritual leader of Israel.

B. Samuel's message from the Lord (3:1–18): While Samuel is still a young boy, the Lord speaks to him about Eli.

1. Samuel receives the message (3:1–14)

- a. Where he is (3:1–9): The Lord calls to Samuel one night as he is sleeping. At first Samuel thinks it is Eli calling him. Eli realizes it is the Lord and tells Samuel to listen.
- b. What he hears (3:10–14): The Lord tells Samuel that he will soon severely punish Eli and his two wicked sons.

2. Samuel repeats the message (3:15–18): The next morning Samuel tells Eli everything the Lord said to him.

B. Samuel's ministry for the Lord (3:19–21): Soon all Israel comes to recognize Samuel as a great prophet of the Lord.

Application:

- God judges those who choose not to obey his Word
 - Eli choose not to discipline his sons for making a mockery of the priesthood and God. He even participated in their sins by eating the meat that most likely belonged to God as His portion.
 - God asked Eli, “Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?”
 - What do we honor more than God?
 - Houses
 - Sports
 - Our children
 - Cars
 - Jobs
 - Money
 - Porn
 - Gossip
 - Skiing
 - Camping
 - Hobbies
 - How do we honor those things more than God?
 - What everyday choices do you face between obeying God’s word and honoring it or being like Eli?
 - What are the long-term consequences of honor something else more than God?
- God blesses us when we are willing to pay the price honor his Word
 - God gave Samuel a difficult message to be delivered Eli.
 - He obeyed and communicated the unpleasant message to a man he loved.
 - What things has God asked of us that have a cost? Talk about the cost benefit ratio.
 - Bible reading (Cost?/Benefit?)
 - Prayer (Cost?/ Benefit?)
 - Tithing (Cost?/ Benefit?)
 - Being a missionary (Cost?/ Benefit?)
 - Ministry (Cost?/ Benefit?)