

Eli – Did Not Restrain His Sons

1 Samuel 2:12, 22-25, 34; 3:10-14

1 Samuel 3:13 *“For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever, for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons did bring a curse upon themselves, and he restrained them not.”*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Exodus 12:25-28; Joshua 4:19-24

Who Was Eli?

- He was a descendant of Ithamar, the youngest son of Aaron.
- He held the office of high priest, and helped to raise Samuel.
- He became judge at age 58, and judged Israel for 40 years. - cf. 1 Samuel 4:15, 18 (98 when he died)

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Who Was Eli?

- When first mentioned (1 Samuel 1:3), he must have been around 70 years old.
- His sons were children of his old age, for afterward they were spoken of as young men. cf. 1 Samuel 2:17

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Eli – Known As Man Who Did Not Restrain His Sons

- His sons Hophni and Phineas were corrupt. 1 Samuel 2:12-17
- He knew what they did. 1 Samuel 2:22-25; 3:13. Yet, honored them above God. 2:29
- Therefore, a man of God was sent to pronounce judgment on his household. 1 Samuel 2:27-36
- The Lord also told Samuel of the reason for such judgment. 1 Samuel 3:10-14

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His Rebuke Was Not Timely

His sons were base men. 1 Samuel 2:12

- Took the best of the meat from the sacrifices. 1 Samuel 2:13-17
- Committed adultery with the women who served at the sanctuary entrance. 1 Samuel 2:22
- His sons' insistence to sin caused rumors. 1 Samuel 2:24

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His Rebuke Was Not Timely

- Discipline needed.
Proverbs 19:18 "Chasten thy son, seeing there is hope"
- *Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 23:13-14; 29:15,17*

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His Rebuke Was Not Pointed

- Given to them collectively rather than individually. *"He said unto them ..."*
1 Samuel 2:22
- By way of question, rather than a direct charge. *"Why do ye such things?"*
1 Samuel 2:23
- He had not troubled himself to know their sin. *"For I hear of your evil dealings from all this people."*
1 Samuel 2:23

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His Rebuke Did Not Emphasize The Evil Of Sin

- He seemed more concerned about what people will think than the sin itself.
1 Samuel 2:23-24

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His Rebuke Held No Consequences

- He did not threaten to judge them for their injustice toward men.
Deuteronomy 21:18; note what Samuel did...
1 Samuel 15:32-33
- He left them to the judgment of God.
1 Samuel 2:25

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His Rebuke Obtained No Results

Their contempt of reproof revealed that they were already hardened.

- God had already given them up to destruction. *"Jehovah was minded to slay them."*
1 Samuel 2:25; cf. Romans 1:18ff
- In them the proverb was to be fulfilled: *"He that hateth reproof shall die"*
Proverbs 15:10

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Lessons Learned

1. The tendency to go wrong often appears at an early age. *"Young Men"*
1 Samuel 2:17
2. Hard to move a grown tree.
cf. Proverbs 19:18. While there is hope.
3. Some children can be "discouraged" by too much strictness. – *cf. Colossians 3:21*
4. Yet, far more are spoiled by too much indulgence. *"Can't buy love or respect."*

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Lessons Learned

1. To make sure our reproofs are sufficiently pointed. (*"Thou art the man!"*) cf. **2 Samuel 12:7**
2. To communicate the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

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Lessons Learned

1. Fathers who love their children chastise them appropriately. cf. **Hebrews 12:6-8**
2. Fathers in a position to restrain their children's sinful behavior, have the duty to do so!
3. Whether it be in the home, in the church, or in the community.

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Lessons Learned

1. We can wait too long. **Proverbs 19:18**
"Chasten thy son, seeing there is hope"
2. One can be hardened by sin. **Hebrews 3:12-13**
3. One can reach a point where it becomes impossible for us to restore them again to repentance. **Hebrews 6:4-6**

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Conclusion

1. Eli accepted God's judgment. **1 Samuel 3:15-18**
2. Judgment occurred. **1 Samuel 4**

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