

WHEN GOD CLEANS HOUSE



TEXT: 1 Samuel 2,3

INTRO.: A. The subject is **A Heart for Service**. Hannah had such a heart. Eli was the priest in the days of Hannah & he too had **A Heart for Service**. But his sons did not. They will be the subject of this study. Because they lacked this quality, we will see it becomes a time **"WHEN GOD CLEANS HOUSE" – His House!**

- B. Everything is determined by the heart. 1 Cor. 13 shows that even sacrificial service is empty w/out love. Jesus rebuked the doctrinally correct & active church at Ephesus because while serving, she had left her first love. Eli's sons didn't love God, they loved themselves. It is shocking to see that these priests were "sons of Belial" or idol worshippers. v.12 They were professing to be one thing in their public life (garments, activity, etc.) but in reality were something else in their private life. (Their private life later became public.) They corrupted their priesthood, defrauded the people of Israel & angered God. God was ready to clean house & sweep out Eli's sons & set up a new priest...

I. GOD CONDEMNS ELI'S SONS:

A. Their Evil Deeds Disclosed: 2:12-25

1. They broke the first two commandments! v.12

Ex.20:3-5 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

2. They were unsaved priests! v.12
3. They profaned the priesthood! v.13-17
4. They were immoral! v.22
5. They refused the counsel & rebuke of their father. v.23-25

ILLUS.: Here is both juvenile & parental delinquency illustrated. Obviously Eli failed his sons in training them because he was too busy "serving the Lord" or turned over his resp. to his wife, or....? For whatever reason his sons, now grown, had no respect for their father & were idolatrous & immoral as well as rebellious & hypocritical.

B. Their Eventual Destruction Determined: v.26-36

1. God sends an unidentified prophet to Eli w/a stern & solemn message. v.26-29
 - a. Because Eli's sons had disgraced the priesthood & because Eli had shown a higher regard for his sons than for His God, He would strip them of the honor of service. v.30
 - b. The strength of Eli's house would be destroyed. v.31
 - c. A rival would replace Eli's family in the priesthood. v.32
 - d. Eli's posterity would suffer early deaths. v.33
 - e. Eli's sons would die that day! v.34
 - f. God would raise up a faithful priest in Eli's place. v.35

ILLUS.: It is important that God's man not be so overburdened that he neglects his family. Service to the Lord begins at home w/his family & personal life. There needs to be a consistency in leadership evident to the congregation. The pastor must have personal discipline & must discipline his family biblically. How do a deacon's spiritual, moral & ethical responsibilities compare to those of the pastor? How about the members? Why does God set a higher standard for those involved in service to Him?

I. GOD CALLS SAMUEL:

ILLUS.: God's housecleaning program was underway at the Tabernacle. The filthy priests were being discarded, and God's house was ready for a new priest. Back in ch.2 God inserted a parenthesis in v.18-21, to show He is never caught by surprise.

A. The Circumstances of The Call: v.1-18a

ILLUS.: These days were indeed the "Dark Ages of Israel" – the time of the Judges. God was not openly speaking. The word precious means "more valuable" in the sense of being rare. There was no direct revelation being given.

1. Hannah had kept her commitment to the Lord re: her son, who was now about 12 years old.
2. God breaks His self-imposed silence & calls the young boy. v.4-10
3. God reveals that He would judge Eli & his house thoroughly & irreversibly. v.11-14
4. Samuel reluctantly told Eli of God's message. v.15-18a

B. The Confirmation of The Call: v.18b-21

1. Eli didn't question God's message to the young boy. v.18b
2. When Samuel spoke, others listened because they realized God had called him. v.19

ILLUS.: It is God alone Who raises up prophets/preachers & who causes their message to be listened to. He alone energizes their preaching & teaching – or it is useless.

3. God's servant was recognized by the people. v.20
4. God continued to speak to His servant. v.21

CONCL.: What a contrast between the sons of the priest, Eli & the son of Hannah, Samuel! Will God be able to use your children? Much depends upon you & your walk w/the Lord & willingness to discipline & disciple your children according to God's Word.