

The Mistakes Of Eli

Deut. 6:4-9; Ex. 12:25-28; Josh. 4:19-24

Eli – Did not teach his children!

1 Sam 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."

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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 Sam. 4:15, 18** (98 when he died)

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WHO WAS ELI?

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

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ELI WILL ALWAYS BE KNOWN AS MAN WHO DID NOT RESTRAIN HIS SONS...

- His sons Hophni and Phineas were corrupt, and did not know the Lord. – **1 Sam. 2:12-17**
- He sought to reprove his sons, he knew what they did; but it was ineffective. - **1 Sam. 2:22-25**
- Therefore God sent a man of God to pronounce judgment on his household. - **1 Sam. 2:27-36**
- The Lord also told Samuel of the reason for such judgment. - **1 Sam. 3:10-14**

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HIS CORRECTION WAS NOT ADMINISTERED IN PROPER TIME

- His sons' insistence to sin must have been seen long before the rumor of their flagrant transgressions reached him. **1 Sam. 2:24**
- It was evident his sons did not know the Lord, yet they had been appointed priests.

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- Eli, being old and weak, TOO gentle and easy going temperament.
- Thus he failed to reprove them until they were too devoted to their evil ways.
- In this Eli was like David in his old age and his son Adonijah - cf. **1 Kings 1:5-6**

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HIS REBUKE WAS NOT GIVEN WITH SUFFICIENT EARNESTNESS

- It was not sufficiently pointed in its application.
 - Given to them collectively rather than individually.
 - By way of question, rather than a direct charge.
 - 1 Sam. 2:23
 - Concerning things he had heard, but had not troubled himself to find out for certain.

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HIS REBUKE EXHIBITED NO SUFFICIENT SENSE OF THE EVIL OF SIN

- He spoke of the consequences of sin rather than the nature of sin.
- He seemed more concerned about the reputation than the sin itself. – 1 Sam. 2:23-24

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HIS REBUKE SHOWED INSUFFICIENT DETERMINATION TO CORRECT THE SIN

- He did not threaten to judge them for their injustice toward men.
- He simply left them to the judgment of God.
 - 1 Sam. 2:25

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HIS REBUKE WAS NOT FOLLOWED BY ADEQUATE CHASTISEMENT

- The law of Moses in the case of disobedient children was very severe. - Deut 21:18-21
- But Eli did not observe this *law* "*when they hearkened not unto the voice of their father.*"
 - 1 Sam. 2:25

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- Nor did he take any further steps to prevent the continuance of the evil which he reproved.
- But as a father, a high priest, and a judge he was guilty of willful disobedience. - cf. 1Sam. 3:12-13

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HIS REBUKE DID NOT RESULT IN ANY IMPROVEMENT

- Their contempt of reproof revealed that they were already infatuated and hardened.
- God had already given them up to destruction. - 1 Sam. 2:25
 - In them the proverb was to be fulfilled: "*He that hateth reproof shall die*" - Prov. 15:10

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The Mistakes Of Eli Lessons Learned

1. The tendency to go wrong appears at an early age.
2. Hard to move a grown tree. cf. **Prov. 19:18**
3. Some children can be “discouraged” by too much strictness. – cf. **Col. 3:21**
4. Yet far more are spoiled by too much indulgence. “Can’t buy love or respect.”

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The Mistakes Of Eli Lessons Learned

1. To make sure our reproofs sufficiently pointed. (“Thou art the man!”) - cf. **2 Sam. 12:7**
2. To communicate the exceedingly sinfulness of sin
3. To make every effort within our power to stop the sinning being done

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The Mistakes Of Eli Lessons Learned

1. Fathers who love their children chastise them appropriately. - cf. **Heb. 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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The Mistakes Of Eli Lessons Learned

1. If we wait too long to reprove, it may be too late. **Prov. 19:18**
2. It is possible for one to become hardened by sin – **Rom. 2:4-5; Heb. 3:12-13**
3. One can reach a point where it becomes impossible for us to restore them again to repentance – **Heb. 6:4-6**

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The Mistakes Of Eli

- HOW MUCH BETTER, TO RECEIVE CORRECTION BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
- cf. **Prov. 1:23**
- HOW SAD, THAT ELI COULD ACCEPT REPROOF, BUT NOT GIVE IT AS ONE SHOULD...!

Prov. 13:25 “He that spareth his rod hateth his son;
But he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

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The Mistakes Of Eli Conclusion

1. REPROOF IS A SOLEMN OBLIGATION...
 - a. It should be given in an effective manner
 - b. When not so given it can do more harm than good
2. REPROOF SHOULD BE HUMBLY AND OBEDIENTLY RECEIVED...
 - a. As Eli did, when he accepted the Lord's judgment - cf. **1Sam. 3:15-18**

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