

In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL

1 Samuel 2:11-36 Worthless Men

Judges 2:12-17

¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD ¹³ and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man was offering a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand. ¹⁴ Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. ¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest meat for roasting, as he will not take boiled meat from you, only raw."

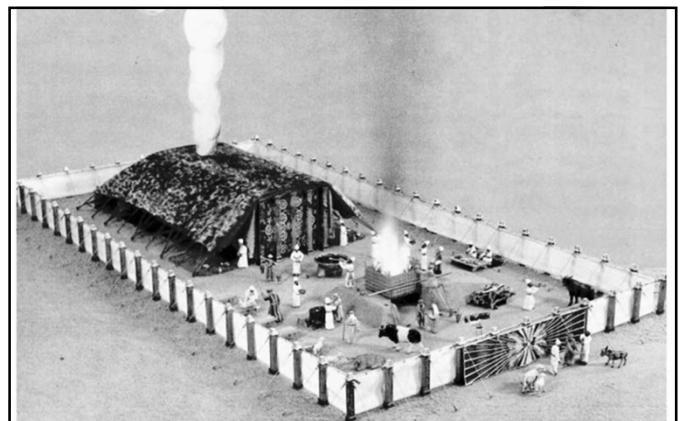
¹⁶ If the man said to him, "They must surely burn the fat first, and then take as much as you desire," then he would say, "No, but you shall give *it to me* now; and if not, I will take it by force."

¹⁷ Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD.

Worthless Men

1. The Sin of Eli's Sons

- they abused their position as priests for their own self-indulgent ends
- they despised the offering of Yahweh – they did not treat Him as holy



Worthless Men

1. The Sin of Eli's Sons

- warning against being formal and outward in our worship with hearts full of self-indulgence

Judges 2:22-25

²² Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting. ²³ He said to them, "Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people? ²⁴ No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the LORD'S people circulating. ²⁵ If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death.

Worthless Men

2. The Hardness of Eli's Sons

- they despised the only means provided by God for dealing with their sins
- they were beyond repentance due to the Lord's judicial hardening

²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, *God gave them over to a depraved mind*, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; ³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

(Romans 1:28-32)

Worthless Men

3. The Judgment of Eli's House

- Eli's great failure was honoring his sons above the Lord and therefore sharing in their sins
- The Lord promised the destruction Eli's family and cutting it off from serving as priests

Worthless Men

4. The Lord's Faithful Provision

- in the midst of this spiritual darkness, God was quietly preparing His leader (Samuel)
- God promised to raise up a faithful priest for Himself (v 35)

²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

(Hebrews 7:26-28)