

A SEASON OF EAR TINGLING

ELI AND SAMUEL

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.
I Samuel 3:1

²² Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ²³ So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. ²⁴ No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the LORD’s people is not good. ... ³⁰ “Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. ... ³⁵ I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.’”

I Samuel 2:22-24,30,35

- I. Eli is falling.
 - A. God removes his promise of blessing.
 - B. God cuts off his family from the priesthood.
 - C. God gives the office to a competitor in a time of great prosperity.
 - D. God creates grief by any survivors.

- E. God kills his descendants in their youth.
- F. God kills his two sons in one day.
- G. God raises up a faithful priest to replace him.

II. Deep cleaning is complicated.

- A. Eli's sons are wicked – defiling the women and mutilating the sacrifices.
- B. The privilege of the priesthood would remain with the tribe of Levi and the house of Aaron, but God would take it away from Eli's branch of the family.
- C. Eli descended from Aaron through Ithamar, Aaron's fourth son, but God would abandon that line and turn to the sons of Eliezer, Aaron's third son and successor in the priesthood.
- D. In David's day the descendants of Eliezer outnumber those of Ithamar at least 2 to 1. (I Chronicles 24:1-5)
- E. When Solomon became king, he removed Eli's great-great-grandson, Abiathar, from the high priesthood and appointed Zadok to serve as high priest, and he was of the house of Eliezer. (I Kings 2:26-27,35)
- F. Solomon fulfilled a prophecy given by the man of God a century and a half before!

III. Samuel is rising.

- A. Samuels have unusual births. / Everything in your life has been ordered by God for this season.
- B. Samuels are raised in unusual times. (I Samuel 7:1-17)

1. They emerge in the midst of national catastrophes. The priesthood is corrupt. (I Samuel 2:12-17,22-26)
 2. The Ark is absent from the tabernacle. (I Samuel 4:3-7:2)
 3. Idols are worshiped. (I Samuel 7:3-4)
 4. Judges are dishonest. (I Samuel 8:3)
- C. Samuels have unique training.
1. Samuels are usually raised around unfaithful priests and leaders.
 2. Samuels are usually called to shepherd people who have gotten what they wanted, but now have leanness in their souls. (Psalm 106:15)
- D. Samuels have a unique circuit of ministry that occupies their time and wisdom, while they wait for their great revival or reformation.
- E. Samuels are surrounded, even in their own families, by those who do not choose to walk with the Lord as they do. This is normal.
- F. Samuels choose to maintain their character, and they finish well.
- G. Samuels have unusual combinations of hats and offices.
1. Samuel was a Nazarite, uniquely set apart for God's work.
 2. Samuel was the last of the Judges. He would be a unique scribe of the kingdom who could bring old and new together.

3. Samuel was a Levite. He would have priestly sympathies: a priestly eye, ear, mouth, heart, and touch. He was an expert in sacrificial law, and was absolutely necessary in Israel's history.
- H. Samuel was a prophet (forth teller). His anointing and value are placed equal to that of Moses.
 - I. Samuel was a seer (a foreteller), a legend in Israel for his accuracy.
 - J. Samuel was an intercessor of immense power. His greatest gift – he was a friend of God.
 - K. Samuel was a leader of leaders. (He spoke truth to Eli, and he was a father running a school of the prophets.)
 - L. Samuel was the linchpin holding together the hinge of two unique epochs in redemptive history. (His presence was uniquely necessary for God's will to be done during his epoch.) His presence brought supernatural transactions.
 - M. Samuel was a leader of leaders of leaders. (He was a king maker, and a king breaker.)
 - N. Samuel had a unique intercessory partner that prayed for him day and night.
 - O. Samuel was obedient to use any means God demanded while ministering. (Pak, flask, man-made vs. Keren horn, living thing by death and sacrifice.)