

## The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

Life and Death

1 Samuel 2.12-7

### Main Idea

Death will meet all those that impose a self-made/defined religion upon themselves and the world. Life comes to those who understand God and His desires to be the center of life.

### Overview

- Self-Made/Defined Religion = Death
  - Eli's Sons were worthless:
    - They mishandled sacrifices (2.13-16)
    - They slept around with Temple servants (2.22)
    - Because of this their sin was very great in the eyes of the Lord (2.17)
    - They would be put to death (2.34)
  - Apparently Eli's rebuke and lifestyle were not in keeping with the will of the Lord as well as his priestly heritage would be cut off (2.31)
  - Israel loses fight and attempts to use the Ark of the Lord in order to gain the favor of the Lord back (4.1-11) but it doesn't work and they lose the ark, 30k men, as well as Hophni and Phineas
  - Eli dies (4.18)
  - Phineas' wife gives birth and names him "Ichabod" because she understands the ark being taken as the "glory of the Lord departing" (4.22)
  - The Philistines attempt to portray God as less than Dagon, yet Dagon falls apart (5.1-4)
  - Affliction torments the Philistines everywhere the Ark goes (5.6-12)
  - Ark is returned to Israelites and they do not obey the Lord's will in tampering with it by looking into it (6.19-21)
- God centered Service = Life
  - Samuel is ministering before the presence of the Lord (2.11)
  - Samuel came from the dead womb of Hannah
  - Samuel "grew" in the presence of the Lord (2.21)
  - Hannah & Elkanah are having numerous children (2.21)
  - Word is "rare" (3.1)...the Lord calls Samuel...Samuel "grows" and Word comes to all Israel (4.1)
  - Samuel calls Israel to repentance and mediates for them to the Lord and they win the fight against the Philistines (7.3-11)

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *Describe some current TV ads or cultural promises that tell you that if you change something on the outside, it will then bring about the joy you want on the inside.*

1. Remind the group of the setting of Samuel (Judges 21.25), then read 1 Samuel 2:12-36. In what ways are Eli's sons "worthless"? Why does the Lord make such a big deal about these things?
2. According to 2:25, how does Eli (and the Author) understand the mediation of sin before the Lord? Apply the Gospel.

3. Read chapter 3. Contrast 3:1 with 3:19-4:1a. What happened in between? How can we learn from this?
4. Read 4:1-18; 6:13-21. What is the conclusion that the Israelites come to in the face of all these problems/death? Why is our society more offended by the sensitivity of the Lord's activity to sinfulness than they are fearful like these Israelites? Diagnose. Why is it we do not "live before the face of God ourselves"?
5. Talk about the ways those out of favor of God in this passage attempt to contort God into their own image. How is it we do the same?
6. Read Chapter 7. What was the difference between the victory here in chapter 7 and defeat in back in chapter 2? What does it look like to live a life of self-made/defined religion? And God-centered faith and repentance?
7. We have been through 7 chapters now and the Author will move into the heart of the story in chapter 8. Have them tie together the story thus far; help them see the themes and draw out what it seems the Author wants us to know in advance of establishing the monarchy.

**Accountability question:** In what ways do you attempt to contort God into your image? In what ways are you seeing fruitfulness in others (or yourself) through their God centered lifestyle of faith and repentance?