

1 Samuel Lesson 4 Honoring God and Dishonoring God

Background:

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Linen ephod: It was a garment worn by a priest. originally it was to be worn by the high priest, but from several of the historical books, including 1 Samuel we see that ephods were worn by persons other than the high priest. The boy Samuel was one example. He wore a linen ephod while assisting the high priest, Eli.

Peace offering: The laws for this offering are listed in Leviticus 3:1-17. A bull, cow, lamb or goat without defect was offered on the altar. After it was killed, the animal's blood was sprinkled on the altar. All of the fat was burned first as an offering to God. After the fat was burned on the altar, the priest received the breast and the right thigh (Lev.7:34).

Man of God: This was a term used to refer to a prophet. A prophet is one who receives and speaks a message directly from God. (Deuteronomy 18:18)

Key Words:

worthless: Strong's H1100 "beliyyaal" ungodly, wicked. The name Belial used in the New Testament for Satan came from this word. (2 Cor 6:15 NASB)

honor: Strong's H3513 "kabad" distinguish, glorify, hold in honor

despise: Strong's H959 "bazah" to be careless with, to despise, disdain or hold in contempt

Read 1 Samuel 2: 11- 36

1. Hannah had shown honor to God by fulfilling her vow, leaving Samuel at the temple under Eli's care.(2:11) How did God bless her obedience? (2:20-21)

2. What do we learn about Samuel and how did God bless his obedience? (2:11,18,19,21, 26)

Application:What can you learn here about the connection between blessing and obedience? How does being obedient give honor to God? How can you apply this lesson in your own life?

3. What does 2:12 say about Eli's sons? What were Eli's sons, the priests at Shiloh, doing in regards to the peace offering that the Israelites offered. there? How did the Lord view their actions? (2:12-17)

4. What did Eli rebuke his sons for and how did they respond? (2:22-2:25)

5. What judgment does God declare on Eli's house through the man of God? What sin was Eli guilty of? (2:27-2:33) Eli was told the judgment would come in the future. What sign did God give regarding the certainty of this judgment? (2:34)

Application: What can you learn here regarding the connection between disobedience and judgment? How does one's disobedience dishonor God How can you apply this lesson in your own life?

6. Our God is a God of mercy and hope. Along with His judgment, what promise of hope does He give in 1 Samuel 2:35 and who may it refer to? (Hebrews 2:17)

Discussions go better when:

1. Each person respects the value of another's insights.
2. Everyone has a chance to speak.
3. Discussion is focused on the passage being studied.
4. Everyone shares freely, but refrains from giving advice.
5. Everyone keeps personal sharing confidential.

