

SUBJECT: CRS

CLASS: SS2

WEEK: 3

TOPIC: PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ELI

(1 Samuel 2;3;4;5;6)

Eli was a Priest in Israel (at Shiloh). At that time, he was old and his children took over. The two sons, **Hophni** and **Phinehas** did not walk in the ways of the Lord. The Bible describes them as worthless men who had no regard for the Lord, because they treated the offering of the lord with contempt.

The custom was that whenever any man offered Sacrifice, the Priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand and he would thrust it into the pan, kettle or pot while the meat was boiling; all that folk could bring out, the Priest would take for himself. The sons of Eli did not respect this rule, rather, they preferred taking the meat raw and if the any person offering the sacrifice refused, they would take it by force. This was a great sin in the sight of the Lord. Apart from this, they lay (had sex) with the woman who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting; they blasphemed against God.

GOD'S WARNING AND THE FAILURE OF ELI

In reaction to all the actions or sins of the son of Eli, God sent a 'man of God' to Eli to warn him about the sins of his sons. God said He would take away Priesthood from his lineage permanently. Eli, being an old man tried to caution his children, but it was not enough to stop them, and they did not even listen to him.

In confirmation of the warning made by the man of God, God revealed Himself to Samuel, the little boy serving the Lord in the house of Eli. God told Samuel that He would fulfill all He has spoken against the house of Eli in one day because his children blaspheme against Him, and their father did not restrain them.

GOD'S PUNISHMENT

God, who had earlier enumerated all that He would do to the house of Eli, accomplished them when there was war between the Israelites and the

Philistines. In the battle, the Philistines fought the Israelites and Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and the Ark of God was captured. When the news got to Eli he fell off his seat, broke his neck and died. Eli's daughter in-law, the wife of Phinehas who was pregnant heard the news, out of fear gave birth to her baby prematurely and died, but, before she died, she named her baby Ichabod saying: "the glory has departed from Israel."

POOR PARENTING OF SAMUEL

(1Samuel 8)

Samuel took over as Judge in Israel after the death of Eli. When he became old, he appointed his Sons, **Joel** and **Abijah**, Judges in Israel and the Judged from **Beer-Sheba**. Like Eli's sons, they did not follow the ways of the father. They took bribe and perverted justice. This was unacceptable to the father. They took bribe and perverted Justice. This was unacceptable to Israelites, as they therefore demanded for a king. This was the reason **Saul** became the first king of Israel.

MORAL LESSONS

1. Parents should take time to teach their children the word of God.
2. There is need to pray together- the use of the family altar should be of paramount value.
3. Parent should inculcate in their children the spirit and fear of God in all they do.
4. There is need to heed the warning of prophets or Men of God.
5. The consequences of evil relationship between men and women must be pointed out to children.
6. Disobedience to the commandment of God could bring adverse consequences.

ASSIGNMENT

Write a short note about what happened between when the Israelite rejected the sons of Samuel and the installment of the first King of Israel.