

Sunday, May 8, 2022

From Darren:

1 Samuel 2:22-4:22 - God doesn't hold back on Eli's family

Ps 106:1-12 - "Who can list the glorious miracles of the LORD ? Who can ever praise him enough?"

Pro 14:30-31 - Honor the maker!

John 5:24-47 - Every miracle Jesus performed was done so we would believe

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1 Samuel 2:22-4:22

2 22 Now Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing to the people of Israel. He knew, for instance, that his sons were seducing the young women who assisted at the entrance of the Tabernacle.

23 Eli said to them, "I have been hearing reports from all the people about the wicked things you are doing. Why do you keep sinning?"

24 You must stop, my sons! The reports I hear among the LORD 's people are not good.

25 If someone sins against another person, God can mediate for the guilty party. But if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede?" But Eli's sons wouldn't listen to their father, for the LORD was already planning to put them to death.

26 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew taller and grew in favor with the LORD and with the people.

27 One day a man of God came to Eli and gave him this message from the LORD : "I revealed myself to your ancestors when they were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt.

28 I chose your ancestor Aaron from among all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer sacrifices on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear the priestly vest as he served me. And I assigned the sacrificial offerings to you priests.

29 So why do you scorn my sacrifices and offerings? Why do you give your sons more honor than you give me—for you and they have become fat from the best offerings of my people Israel!

30 "Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.

31 The time is coming when I will put an end to your family, so it will no longer serve as my priests. All the members of your family will die before their time. None will reach old age.

32 You will watch with envy as I pour out prosperity on the people of Israel. But no members of your family will ever live out their days.

33 The few not cut off from serving at my altar will survive, but only so their eyes can go blind and their hearts break, and their children will die a violent death.

34 And to prove that what I have said will come true, I will cause your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, to die on the same day!

35 "Then I will raise up a faithful priest who will serve me and do what I desire. I will establish his family, and they will be priests to my anointed kings forever.

36 Then all of your surviving family will bow before him, begging for money and food. 'Please,' they will say, 'give us jobs among the priests so we will have enough to eat.'"

3 1 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.
2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed.
3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God.
4 Suddenly the LORD called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?"
5 He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.
6 Then the LORD called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."
7 Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before.
8 So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy.
9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.
10 And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."
11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel.
12 I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end.
13 I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them.
14 So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."
15 Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the LORD had said to him.
16 But Eli called out to him, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am," Samuel replied.
17 "What did the LORD say to you? Tell me everything. And may God strike you and even kill you if you hide anything from me!"
18 So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the LORD's will," Eli replied. "Let him do what he thinks best."
19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable.
20 And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD.
21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.

4 1 And Samuel's words went out to all the people of Israel. At that time Israel was at war with the Philistines. The Israelite army was camped near Ebenezer, and the Philistines were at Aphek.
2 The Philistines attacked and defeated the army of Israel, killing 4,000 men.
3 After the battle was over, the troops retreated to their camp, and the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD allow us to be defeated by the Philistines?" Then they said, "Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD from Shiloh. If we carry it into battle with us, it will save us from our enemies."

4 So they sent men to Shiloh to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim. Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli, were also there with the Ark of the Covenant of God.

5 When all the Israelites saw the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD coming into the camp, their shout of joy was so loud it made the ground shake!

6 "What's going on?" the Philistines asked. "What's all the shouting about in the Hebrew camp?" When they were told it was because the Ark of the LORD had arrived,

7 they panicked. "The gods have come into their camp!" they cried. "This is a disaster! We have never had to face anything like this before!

8 Help! Who can save us from these mighty gods of Israel? They are the same gods who destroyed the Egyptians with plagues when Israel was in the wilderness.

9 Fight as never before, Philistines! If you don't, we will become the Hebrews' slaves just as they have been ours! Stand up like men and fight!"

10 So the Philistines fought desperately, and Israel was defeated again. The slaughter was great; 30,000 Israelite soldiers died that day. The survivors turned and fled to their tents.

11 The Ark of God was captured, and Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were killed.

12 A man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the battlefield and arrived at Shiloh later that same day. He had torn his clothes and put dust on his head to show his grief.

13 Eli was waiting beside the road to hear the news of the battle, for his heart trembled for the safety of the Ark of God. When the messenger arrived and told what had happened, an outcry resounded throughout the town.

14 "What is all the noise about?" Eli asked. The messenger rushed over to Eli,

15 who was ninety-eight years old and blind.

16 He said to Eli, "I have just come from the battlefield—I was there this very day." "What happened, my son?" Eli demanded.

17 "Israel has been defeated by the Philistines," the messenger replied. "The people have been slaughtered, and your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were also killed. And the Ark of God has been captured."

18 When the messenger mentioned what had happened to the Ark of God, Eli fell backward from his seat beside the gate. He broke his neck and died, for he was old and overweight. He had been Israel's judge for forty years.

19 Eli's daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near her time of delivery. When she heard that the Ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth.

20 She died in childbirth, but before she passed away the midwives tried to encourage her.

"Don't be afraid," they said. "You have a baby boy!" But she did not answer or pay attention to them.

21 She named the child Ichabod (which means "Where is the glory?"), for she said, "Israel's glory is gone." She named him this because the Ark of God had been captured and because her father-in-law and husband were dead.

22 Then she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God has been captured."

Psalm 106:1-12

106 1 Praise the LORD ! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

2 Who can list the glorious miracles of the LORD ? Who can ever praise him enough?

3 There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right.

4 Remember me, LORD, when you show favor to your people; come near and rescue me.

5 Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones. Let me rejoice in the joy of your people; let me praise you with those who are your heritage.

6 Like our ancestors, we have sinned. We have done wrong! We have acted wickedly!

7 Our ancestors in Egypt were not impressed by the LORD 's miraculous deeds. They soon forgot his many acts of kindness to them. Instead, they rebelled against him at the Red Sea.

8 Even so, he saved them— to defend the honor of his name and to demonstrate his mighty power.

9 He commanded the Red Sea to dry up. He led Israel across the sea as if it were a desert.

10 So he rescued them from their enemies and redeemed them from their foes.

11 Then the water returned and covered their enemies; not one of them survived.

12 Then his people believed his promises. Then they sang his praise.

Proverbs 14:30-31

14 30 A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.

31 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him.

John 5:24-47

5 24 "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

25 "And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it's here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live.

26 The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son.

27 And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.

28 Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son,

29 and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

30 I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

31 "If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid.

32 But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true.

33 In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true.

34 Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved.

35 John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message.

36 But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.

37 And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face,

38 and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

39 "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!

40 Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

41 "Your approval means nothing to me,

42 because I know you don't have God's love within you.

43 For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them.

44 No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.

45 "Yet it isn't I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes.

46 If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me.

47 But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"