

Theme: God's holy people have often suffered because of unholy leaders, but God is always faithful to raise new leaders who will shepherd the people with integrity and holiness.

I. Corrupt Spiritual Leaders

- A. Recent years have seen the blight of pedophile priests
- B. But this is not a uniquely Roman Catholic problem!
- C. Jack Schaap - pastor of 1st Baptist Hammond, Indiana
- D. Railed against sin, often blaming women
- E. In prison for sex with a 17 year old girl from his church
- F. Same thing often happened in Israel
- G. Today - unholy holy men, but holy common folk!

II. Holy People and Unholy Priests

- A. Common people are seen as living holy, faithful lives
 - 1. Elkanah - God has possessed
Year after year this man [Elkanah] **went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty** at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord.
1 Samuel 1:3
 - a. Faithfully goes to worship yearly
 - b. He has a steady, consistent faith
 - c. Also note that the priests are mentioned
 - 1. Constant contrast between common folks and priests in this passage
 - 2. Keep an eye out for this

2. Hannah - gracious or favored

¹⁰ In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "O Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon **your servant's** misery and remember me, and not forget **your servant** but give her a son, then I **will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.**" 1 Samuel 1:9–11

- a. A woman earnestly praying to Yahweh
- b. She takes her pain and grief to Yahweh
- c. She views herself as Yahweh's servant
- d. Vows to give her child to Yahweh as a Nazirite

²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸ So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there. 1 Samuel 1:27–28

- a. She realizes God heard her prayer
- b. She keeps her vow

Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ² "There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:1–2

- a. Great song of worship to her covenant God
- b. Mary bases her song in Luke 1:46-55 on this

- 1. 2:1 with Luke 1:46-47; also note "deliverance" is salvation - yeshua

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, Luke 1:46–47

2. Similar themes of God reversing fortunes - exalting the humble and humbling the exalted
3. Luke 1:48 - humbles state of his servant - is almost verbatim from LXX of 1 Samuel 1:11 - where misery was translated as humble state

c. In many ways Hannah is a foreshadowing of Mary

3. Samuel -

But Samuel was ministering before the Lord — a boy wearing a linen ephod. 1 Samuel 2:18

- a. Samuel is seen as one who truly ministers
- b. Wearing a linen ephod - reminiscent of priestly garments

And the Lord was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile, **the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.** 1 Samuel 2:21

- a. More than just reference to being at Tabernacle
- b. He really lived in the presence of Yahweh - unlike others who lived and worked at the Tabernacle

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men. 1 Samuel 2:26

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52

- a. Luke clearly referencing these words from 1 Samuel
- b. Samuel is a type and shadow of Jesus here
- c. Young boy growing up in presence of Yahweh
- d. Faithful minister in midst of unfaithful priests

B. Holy people (priests) are seen living unholy, unfaithful lives

1. Eli

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine." 1 Samuel 1:12–14

- a. Falsely accuses Hannah - a holy woman of faith
- b. In next verses totally reverses himself - looks foolish

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; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people. 1 Samuel 2:22–24

- a. Eli has great problems with his sons - he has to rebuke them
- b. But he never restrained them from their actions - and he could have done this!

At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family — from beginning to end. ¹³ **For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.** 1 Samuel 3:12–13

1. He did rebuke them as we saw (2:22-24)
2. But he did not restrain them - even after he was warned once before by a prophet!
3. He was not just their father (they were grown) - he

was their boss and could have forced them to stop!

4. He honored them more than Yahweh - 2:29

Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? **Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?** 1 Samuel 2:29

- c. The problem of the next generation - key theme in the series - and in Christianity!

2. The sons of Eli - the depth of depravity

Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the Lord... ¹⁵ But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."¹⁶ If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would then answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force."

¹⁷ This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt. (1 Samuel 2:12, 15–17)

- a. They are described as wicked men (v12)
- b. No regard for Yahweh - 2:12
- c. Treating Yahweh's people with contempt - 2:15-16
- d. Treated LORD's offering with contempt - 2:17

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.** 1 Samuel 2:22

- a. Sleeping with women at Tabernacle - like Temple prostitutes! - 2:22

- b. Nothing good is said about these men

This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt. ¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the Lord — a boy wearing a linen ephod. (1 Samuel 2:17–18)

His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death. ²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men. (1 Samuel 2:25–26)

- a. Note contrast with Samuel in this account
- b. They are unfaithful - he is faithful
- c. They treat Yahweh and his ministry with contempt - He loves Yahweh and honors the ministry
- d. They are under the wrath of Yahweh and despised by the people; Samuel is under Yahweh's favor and love by the people
- e. Talk about a contrast!

- C. We have here holy common folk and unholy holy men!

III. The Great Need - A Holy Leader for the Holy People

- A. The people of God are His holy people
 1. God's people are set apart by His call - holy
 2. But we need holy leaders to guide us in God's ways
 3. We will see this throughout these books

B. The promise of holy, faithful leaders

He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails; ¹⁰ those who oppose the Lord will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."
1 Samuel 2:9–10

1. God is here promising to raise up HIS king
2. And the king is called anointed - messiah
3. First time the king is called the anointed - messiah - in the Old Testament!

4. On the lips of Hannah - type of Mary, mother of Samuel - a type of Jesus!

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 house, and he will minister before my anointed one always. 1 Samuel 2:35

1. God will raise up a faithful priest - not like Eli and sons
2. This one will minister before the anointed king and his family
3. Clearly fulfilled in new priestly line under David's kingship

C. The true fulfillment - Jesus our great faithful Priest-King

1. All of this ultimately points to Jesus
2. He is our great King Who rules us in holiness
3. He is the Anointed One - the Messiah - who cares for us faithfully

4. He is the Anointed One Who gives the Spirit to us as the people of God so we might walk in holiness too
5. He is the faithful priest, always interceding for us before the Father's throne
6. This is why Mary uses Hannah's song in her own
7. This is why Luke uses the words about Samuel to speak of Jesus
8. Our great Prophet, Priest and King has come!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Have you embrace our King & Priest?

1. Don't look to others - they will fail you
2. Don't "be fooled again" (the Who)
3. Look to Jesus - He is the True King and True Priest we need
4. Embrace Him today

B. Coming to the Table of our King and Priest

1. Come to the Table of the King - and be fed
2. Come to the Table of the Priest - and be cleansed

Holy People and Unholy Priests

1 Samuel 2 (read vv11-18)

March 2, 2014

Communion

Revelation 1:4-6

Now to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:5–6

¹¹ Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under Eli the priest.

¹² Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the Lord. ¹³ Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand. ¹⁴ He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. ¹⁵ But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."

¹⁶ If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would then answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force."

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