

EPISODE NO. 120

1 Sam. 2:27-36

God's Message to Eli, the Priest

Years later, 27 a man of God came to Eli. He said to him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘I plainly revealed Myself to the family of your ancestor, Aaron. That was when they were in Egypt, at the house of Pharaoh. 28 I chose them from all the tribes of Israel to be My priests. I wanted them to go up on My altar to burn incense and to wear the holy vest before Me. I also gave to the family of your ancestor all the offerings of the Israelites which are made by fire. 29 So, why don’t you respect My sacrifices and My offerings which I commanded in My dwelling-place? You honor your sons MORE THAN Me! You priests have become fat on the best parts of all the meat which My people Israel bring to Me!’

30 “So, here is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: ‘Indeed I promised that your family and your ancestor’s family would serve Me forever.’ But now Yahweh says this: ‘That will NEVER be! I will honor only those who honor Me. But I will take honor away from those who do NOT honor Me! 31 Look, the time is coming when I will destroy the descendants of both you and your forefather! — No man will grow old in your family! 32 You will see trouble in My dwelling-place. Good things may happen to Israel, but there will never be an old man in your family! 33 However, I will save one man to serve as priest at My altar. There will still be many, many tears. But the rest of your descendants will die by the sword!

34 “And this will be the sign to you. Both of your sons — Hophni and Phinehas — will die on the same day! 35 I will choose a loyal priest for Myself. He will listen to Me and do what I want. I will make his family strong. He will always serve in the presence of My anointed King. 36 Then anyone in your family who survives will come and bow down to him. They will beg for a little money or a loaf of bread. They will say, “Please, give me a job as priest, so that I can have a little bit of bread to eat!” ’ ”