

A LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE! 1 SAM. 2:11-26

1 Samuel 1-3 (especially 2:11-36) describes well the darkness as well as the light in the darkness!

I. Samuel worshipped the Lord there!

1 Samuel 1:28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. **And he worshipped the LORD there.**

1 Samuel 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. **And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.** **1 Samuel 1:7** And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. **1 Samuel 1:9** So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. **Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.** **1 Samuel 1:14** And Eli said unto her, **How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.** **1 Samuel 1:19** And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

1 Samuel 1:21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

Thoughts:

- Hophni & Phinehas were priests there
- Eli (dense & old) misjudged Hannah there
- Elkanah & family worshipped there every year
- Samuel also worshipped there - probably because of mom and dad

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

II. Samuel ministered to the Lord there!

1 Samuel 2:11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. **And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.**

This is wonderful – but what were the spiritual conditions of Shiloh?

1 Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew **not** the LORD. **1 Samuel 2:13** And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; **1 Samuel 2:14** And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. **1 Samuel 2:15** Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. **1 Samuel 2:16** And **if** any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, **Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.** **1 Samuel 2:17** Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great **before** the LORD: **for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**

Hophni & Phinehas:

- Were sons of Belial

1 Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were **sons of Belial**; they knew not the LORD.

1 Samuel 1:16 Count **not** thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

- Were unsaved, religious people (2:12)
- Ministered to themselves **not** so much to the Lord (2:13-15)

They took what they wanted, as they wanted and what kind they wanted!

- They directly disobeyed Scripture (2:15-16)

The "Priest's custom" was wrong.

Not burning the fat was exceptionally wrong.

Leviticus 3:3 And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the **fat** that covereth the inwards, and all the **fat** that is upon the inwards, **Leviticus 3:4** And the two kidneys, and the **fat** that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. **Leviticus 3:5** And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

- They did this by force

➤ **They also forced the women**

1 Samuel 2:22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; **and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.**

Exodus 38:8 And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, **which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.**

➤ **They caused the people to abhor the sacrifice (2:17)**

In this dark mess Samuel ministered to the Lord!

III. Samuel ministered to the Lord alone there!

1 Samuel 2:11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. **And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.**

1 Samuel 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

Eli & sons no longer were trustworthy!

1 Samuel 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. **1 Samuel 2:19** Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

IV. Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord there!

1 Samuel 2:20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. **1 Samuel 2:21** And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. **And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.** **1 Samuel 2:22** Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1 Samuel 2:23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. **1 Samuel 2:24** Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress. **1 Samuel 2:25** If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

Growth requires only:

Your	In the presence of God (Coram Deo)	Scripture
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John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **2 Timothy 3:17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby:**

Psalms 1:2 But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law **doth he meditate** day and night. **Psalms 1:3** And he **shall** be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, **that** bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall **not** wither; **and** whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: **Proverbs 6:21** Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. **Proverbs 6:22** When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. **Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

V. Samuel continued to grow there!

1 Samuel 2:26 And the child Samuel **grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.**

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Growth is not magic.

Growth is not emotions.

Growth is certainly not the status quo.

Growth is a before & an after.

John 9:25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, **whereas I was blind, now I see.**

Growth is not a testimony but testimonies.