

The Evil Sons Of Eli

Lessons To Learn From the Life of Hophni and Phineas

Series: *Big Dummies Of The Bible*

Sunday, August 12, 2018 Pastor Rick Wilson Denbigh Baptist Church

We must make faith our own.

Hophni and Phineas were prodigal priests who did not possess the faith of their father Eli.

1 Samuel 2:12 (ESV)

“Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord.”

Imagine if when your story is told it begins, “They were worthless, they did not know the Lord.”

Hophni and Phineas were leaders of worship who served only themselves.

God prescribed a provision for the priests, but they wanted more. – Deuteronomy 18:3; Leviticus 7:31-32, 10:14-15; Numbers 18:18

J. Vernon McGee – “They were totally dishonest in the Lord’s work. They were running one of the first religious rackets.”

They despised God’s offerings, disrespected God’s authority, and stole from God by abusing their office to serve only themselves.

Hophni and Phineas used their position as priests to serve other gods and engage in immoral behavior.

Eli was in some way complicit to his sons’ behavior.

Eli warned his sons, but did not remove them. It was God who removed Eli and his posterity from service. - 1 Samuel 2:22-35; 3:11-14; 1 Kings 2:27

Hophni and Phineas viewed God as more of a good luck charm than the God who is to be worshiped and obeyed.

The Ark of the Covenant, the seat of God’s presence with His people, was brought out of the place of worship and into battle. – 1 Samuel 4:1-18

The Ark was taken as well as the lives of Hophni and Phineas.

This news shook aging Eli to the point he fell from his chair, broke his neck, and died.