

The Sin of Abdication

[abdicate.ser]

Eli's sons:

1 Sam 2:12--Now the sons of Eli were corrupt;

[Sons of Belial = 1100 beliya`al = worthless, good for nothing, wicked, evil, ungodly, corrupt]
they did not know the LORD. [No personal relationship with God]

13 And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged flesh hook in his hand while the meat was boiling.

14 Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the flesh hook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, [Lawless] "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."

16 And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first;" [Selfish, demanding] then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, [Violent] "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force." [Our way or else!]

17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD. [Despised the offering of the LORD] [Abhorred, treated with contempt][Think of the offering of Jesus on the cross!]

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, [Abdicated parental authority] [out of control] and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. [Committed adultery openly, violated their trust]

23 So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people.

24 "No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. [Bad reputation in the community] You make the LORD'S people transgress. [Cause other people to sin, i.e. stumbling blocks]

25 "If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" [Preaching in jail] Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, [Guilty before God Almighty] because the LORD desired to kill them.

26 And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, [Prophetic rebuke of Eli] "Thus says the LORD: `Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

28 `Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire?

29 `Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?'

30 "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: [Eli must have been eating steaks also!] `I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.'

But now the LORD says: `Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

31 `Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm [Judgment on Eli's house] and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.

32 `And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. [Your descendants will die in the prime of life] And there shall not be an old man in your house forever.

33 `But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. [Weeping and grieve will be your lot] And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 `Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons,
on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. [Specific prophecy]

35 `Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest
who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. [Samuel]
I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

36 `And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to
him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, [Prophecy of financial destitution]
"Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread."''' (NKJ)

1 Sam 3:11--Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel
at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

12 "In that day I will perform against Eli
all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

13 "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows,
because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. [Abdication!]

14 "And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli
that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."
15 So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD.
And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" And he answered, "Here I am."
17 And he said, "What is the word that the LORD spoke to you?
Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also,
if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."
18 Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him.
And he said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him." [Passive]

19 So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.
20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba
knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.
21 Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh.
For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. (NKJ)

1 Sam 4:3-22 [Tell this story]

3 And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said,
"Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines?
Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us,
that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."

4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there
the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.
And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas,
were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp,
all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook.

6 Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said,
"What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?"
Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp.

7 So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp!"
And they said, "Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before.

8 "Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods?
These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

9 "Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines,
that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you.
Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!"

10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent.
There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.

11 Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

12 Then a man of Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day,
and came to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

- 13 Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God.
And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out.
- 14 When Eli heard the noise of the outcry, he said,
"What does the sound of this tumult mean?" And the man came quickly and told Eli.
- 15 Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see.
- 16 Then the man said to Eli, "I am he who came from the battle.
And I fled today from the battle line." And he said, "What happened, my son?"
- 17 So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."
- 18 Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy.
And he had judged Israel forty years.
- 19 Now his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her.
- 20 And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her,
"Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, nor did she regard it.
- 21 Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.
- 22 She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

1 Sam 8:1--Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

- 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.
- 3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.
- 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,
- 5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."
- 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said,
"Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. (NKJ)

Abdication Defined:

1. to give up formally a high office, such as a throne!
2. to surrender or renounce a right or responsibility!
3. to give up a place of authority by procrastination, laziness, indecisiveness, hesitation or fear!
4. to surrender simply doing what is right:
 - a) to take the easy way out
 - b) to do what is politically correct
 - c) to avoid conflict or arguments, afraid to confront
 - d) to take the path of least resistance
 - e) hope the problem will go away
 - f) insecurity—I want to be loved
 - g) let it slide

Fatherhood is a high office, a God given responsibility, a place of authority!

Many fathers only sleep at their homes; they have abdicated most of their responsibilities to others. They fail to provide spiritual leadership for their children or to develop their characters.

Let us look at some practical areas:

1. Spiritual leadership of the home
2. Family Devotions
3. Prayer

4. Television control
5. Personal habits and hygiene
6. Choice of friends
7. Knowing where the children are and having a definite time to be at home
8. Financial realm--staying out of debt
9. Tithing
10. Treating and respecting their mother i.e. all women
11. Respecting authority
12. Good manners

Surrender:

1. to give up possession of
2. to yield to another's on demand
3. to give in

Repudiate:

1. to disown
2. to refuse to accept or support

Abandon:

1. to give up completely or forever
2. to desert, to quit
3. a complete rejection of one's responsibilities

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1. Satan wants to "deceive and destroy" your children!
 2. Values are best taught subtly, casually, with unplanned interactions, watch for windows of opportunities.
 3. There is a "tug of war" being waged for the hearts and minds of every person on earth.
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APPENDIX:

**IKing 1:5--Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.
6 (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)**

ADONIJAH--The fourth son of David born in Hebron while his father reigned over Judah only 2 Sam. 3:4; about 1003 BC. According to oriental usage Adonijah might have considered his claim superior to that of his eldest brother, Amnon, who was born while his father was in a private station; but not to that of Absalom, who was not only his elder brother, and born while his father was a king, but was of royal descent on the side of his mother. When Amnon and Absalom were dead, Adonijah became heir apparent to the throne, but this order had been set aside in favor of Solomon, who was born while his father was king over all Israel.

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- 2. A God given assignment.**
- 3. A God given place of responsibility!**



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