

Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 2, 1 Samuel 2:12-36 – Disrespect Can Be Deadly Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 2, 1 Samuel 2:12-36 – Disrespect Can Be Deadly, [Biblicalelearning.org](https://www.biblicalelearning.org), BeL

Dr. Robert Chisholm's lecture analyzes 1 Samuel 2:12-36, contrasting the piety of Hannah and Samuel with the wickedness of Eli and his sons. **Eli's sons' contemptuous disregard** for God's commands, specifically their theft and abuse of sacrificial offerings, leads to God's judgment and the eventual demise of their priestly lineage. **This contrast highlights** the importance of obedience and foreshadows the rejection of Saul and the elevation of David. The lecture also explores the nature of God's promises, explaining that while some are irrevocable, others are conditional upon continued faithfulness. **Ultimately, the lecture emphasizes** the consequences of disrespecting God and the ongoing work of God's plan despite human failures.

2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the [Biblicalelearning.org](https://www.biblicalelearning.org) [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).



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3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 2, 1 Samuel 2:12-36 – Disrespect Can Be Deadly

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, along with relevant quotes.

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 2:12-36 - Disrespect Can Be Deadly

Overview:

This document summarizes Dr. Robert Chisholm's teaching on 1 Samuel 2:12-36, focusing on the contrast between Eli and his wicked sons and the faithful Samuel. The core theme is that "disrespect can be deadly," and that the Lord opposes those who treat him with contempt while rewarding his loyal followers. The passage serves to establish Samuel's credibility as a prophet and foreshadows the rejection of Saul and the rise of David.

Main Themes & Ideas:

1. **Contrast Between Loyalty and Contempt:** The passage highlights the stark contrast between Hannah's faithfulness and the wicked behavior of Eli's sons. Hannah's story, in which the Lord vindicated her loyalty, foreshadows how God will treat Israel. Samuel's growth and faithfulness are also in opposition to the behavior of Eli's sons. As Chisholm states, "So, prior to this, we see the Lord vindicating his loyal follower Hannah. Here we see him announcing punishment for those who treat him with contempt."
2. **The Wickedness of Eli's Sons:** The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas, are explicitly described as "wicked men" who "had no regard for the Lord." Chisholm clarifies that they knew *about* the Lord but did not *know* him in the sense of recognizing his authority. He explains, "And so, they did not recognize the Lord's authority. They may have given lip service to it, but that's not what we're talking about. By their actions, they demonstrated that they did not know the Lord in the sense that they did not recognize him as having authority over them." Their sins included:
 - Stealing the best portions of sacrifices before the Lord received his due.
 - Demanding raw meat from those bringing sacrifices.
 - Sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

- Chisholm notes "They're greedy people who are filled with greed and lust. They want a lot of food. They want to sleep with women. And they're doing it right there. Excuse me. They're doing it right there in the tent of meeting."
1. **The Lord Opposes Contempt:** Chisholm states the main idea of the section clearly: "the Lord opposes those who treat him with contempt and he withholds his promised blessings from those who despise him." He points out that the sins of Eli's sons were considered a "very great sin in the Lord's sight" because they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt, likening it to idolatry and adultery in terms of its severity.
 2. **Samuel's Growing Favor:** In contrast to Eli's sons, Samuel is depicted as "ministering before the Lord," growing "in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men." His righteousness is underscored by the Hebrew word "tov," meaning good, in direct contrast to the word used to describe the actions of Eli's sons "lo tovah," not good. This contrast serves to highlight the different paths these characters are on, setting up Samuel as a righteous and divinely favored leader.
 3. **Eli's Failure and God's Judgment:** Eli, despite rebuking his sons, fails to take decisive action to stop their wickedness. He's criticized for not removing his sons from their priestly duties and for participating in their sin by eating the meat they stole. Chisholm notes, "Even though he didn't approve of what they were doing, he participated in it in a sense."
- A man of God comes to Eli to declare God's judgment upon his house and reveals that Eli has honored his sons more than God.
 - The Lord declares, "Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained."
 - God withdraws his promise of a perpetual priesthood for Eli's family.
1. **The Concept of Conditional Promises:** The passage raises the question of God's faithfulness when he withdraws a previously declared promise. Chisholm addresses this by explaining that not all of God's promises are unconditional or irrevocable. He references Jeremiah 18, where the Lord states that he may change his plans based on a nation's repentance or disobedience.
 - Chisholm quotes: "If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, and if that nation I warn repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned."

- He also states: "sometimes the promise can be stated as if it were unconditional ... but nevertheless, it's implicitly conditional."
 - The Lord made promises to both Eli and Saul, implying that there was an expectation for their obedience.
1. **The Demise of Eli and his Sons:** Eli and his family line are going to be cut off prematurely, and his descendants will be humiliated and reduced to begging. This serves as poetic justice. In contrast, Samuel is growing and being raised up by the Lord, underscoring the idea that the Lord is not rejecting Israel but is raising a new leader. Chisholm explains "The demise of Eli and his sons, doesn't mean that Israel is being rejected by the Lord. The Lord is still going to work with his people. He's going to raise up a new leader, Samuel, a prophet like Moses, and he is going to raise him up."

Quotes of Significance:

- "The main idea of this section I would state this way, the Lord opposes those who treat him with contempt and he withholds his promised blessings from those who despise him."
- "Eli's sons were wicked men. They had no regard for the Lord. And that literally says they did not know the Lord."
- "This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt."
- "Those who honor me, I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained."
- "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."
- "He had made promises to Eli and Saul, and he wanted to bless them, but when they did not obey him, he simply had to remove that promise and relent."
- "Disrespect can be deadly."

Conclusion:

1 Samuel 2:12-36 serves as a crucial passage in the narrative, establishing the contrast between the corrupt leadership of Eli and his sons and the faithful, divinely favored Samuel. It highlights the importance of genuine reverence and obedience to God, emphasizing that God's promises are not always unconditional and that consequences follow actions. The themes introduced in this passage have significance for the broader narrative of 1 and 2 Samuel, particularly the rise of Samuel as a prophet and the eventual rejection of Saul and selection of David.

4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 2, 1 Samuel 2:12-36 – Disrespect Can Be Deadly

1 Samuel 2:12-36 Study Guide

Quiz

1. How does Dr. Chisholm describe the main theme of Hannah's story and how does it relate to the larger narrative of 1 Samuel?
 - Hannah's story demonstrates that the Lord vindicates his loyal followers. Her faithfulness and subsequent blessing foreshadow what the Lord will do for Israel throughout the book of Samuel.
1. What is the primary reason Dr. Chisholm identifies for the book's emphasis on establishing Samuel's credibility?
 - The author emphasizes Samuel's credibility as a prophet to show that God rejected Saul and chose David as the rightful king. This is important because there were some people still loyal to Saul.
1. How does the text describe the actions of Eli's sons, and what does it mean when it says they "did not know the Lord?"
 - Eli's sons are described as wicked men who had no regard for the Lord and treated his offerings with contempt. To say they "did not know the Lord" means that they didn't recognize the Lord's authority over them, despite their familiarity with him.
1. What specific actions did Eli's sons commit that were considered sinful?
 - Eli's sons took the best portions of sacrifices for themselves, before the Lord's portion, and demanded meat before it was boiled and fat was burned. They also slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
1. What does the text emphasize about Samuel in contrast to Eli's sons, and how is this contrast highlighted?
 - Samuel is presented as growing in stature and in favor with the Lord, characterized by goodness (tov), directly contrasting the evil and contemptible actions of Eli's sons (lo tovah). This is highlighted by switches in the text from one to the other.

1. What is the significance of the statement that the Lord willed to put Eli's sons to death?
 - The Lord's will to put them to death signifies they had crossed a line, reaching a point where their sin was beyond repentance and divine judgment was inevitable. It reveals God's ultimate authority when human action fails.
1. What is the message that the "man of God" delivers to Eli, and what is the essence of the Lord's complaint against Eli?
 - The "man of God" tells Eli that God clearly revealed himself to Eli's ancestors and made a covenant with them for their priestly service. The Lord complains that Eli has honored his sons more than the Lord by allowing them to steal from his offerings.
1. What does the Lord promise regarding the fate of Eli's lineage, and how does this connect to the idea of divine justice?
 - The Lord declares that Eli's lineage will suffer premature death and will be demoted from the priesthood. This demonstrates poetic justice, where the punishment reflects the nature of the crime as they were gorging themselves on meat and would eventually be begging for food.
1. According to Jeremiah 18, how does God relate to nations, and what is the condition that can cause God to relent or reconsider plans?
 - God is like a potter who shapes and reshapes clay, meaning he has authority over nations. If a nation repents of its evil, God will relent from inflicting the disaster he had planned; similarly, if a nation does evil, he may reconsider the good he intended.
1. How does Dr. Chisholm explain the concept of conditional promises in the Old Testament and how does this relate to the situations of Eli and Saul?
 - Not all Old Testament promises are unconditional or irrevocable. God's promises can be stated as if unconditional, but are implicitly conditional on the recipient's faithfulness. Both Eli and Saul failed to uphold their responsibilities which led to the removal of the promises.

Answer Key

1. Hannah's story demonstrates that the Lord vindicates his loyal followers. Her faithfulness and subsequent blessing foreshadow what the Lord will do for Israel throughout the book of Samuel.
2. The author emphasizes Samuel's credibility as a prophet to show that God rejected Saul and chose David as the rightful king. This is important because there were some people still loyal to Saul.
3. Eli's sons are described as wicked men who had no regard for the Lord and treated his offerings with contempt. To say they "did not know the Lord" means that they didn't recognize the Lord's authority over them, despite their familiarity with him.
4. Eli's sons took the best portions of sacrifices for themselves, before the Lord's portion, and demanded meat before it was boiled and fat was burned. They also slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
5. Samuel is presented as growing in stature and in favor with the Lord, characterized by goodness (tov), directly contrasting the evil and contemptible actions of Eli's sons (lo tovah). This is highlighted by switches in the text from one to the other.
6. The Lord's will to put them to death signifies they had crossed a line, reaching a point where their sin was beyond repentance and divine judgment was inevitable. It reveals God's ultimate authority when human action fails.
7. The "man of God" tells Eli that God clearly revealed himself to Eli's ancestors and made a covenant with them for their priestly service. The Lord complains that Eli has honored his sons more than the Lord by allowing them to steal from his offerings.
8. The Lord declares that Eli's lineage will suffer premature death and will be demoted from the priesthood. This demonstrates poetic justice, where the punishment reflects the nature of the crime as they were gorging themselves on meat and would eventually be begging for food.
9. God is like a potter who shapes and reshapes clay, meaning he has authority over nations. If a nation repents of its evil, God will relent from inflicting the disaster he had planned; similarly, if a nation does evil, he may reconsider the good he intended.

10. Not all Old Testament promises are unconditional or irrevocable. God's promises can be stated as if unconditional, but are implicitly conditional on the recipient's faithfulness. Both Eli and Saul failed to uphold their responsibilities which led to the removal of the promises.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the literary techniques used in 1 Samuel 2:12-36 to establish contrasts between Samuel and Eli's sons, and discuss how these contrasts contribute to the overall narrative and theological message of the book of 1 Samuel.
2. Explore the concept of divine judgment as presented in 1 Samuel 2:12-36, considering the specific actions of Eli's sons, Eli's failure to act, and how this section fits into the broader theme of God's justice and sovereignty over Israel.
3. Discuss the significance of the conditional nature of God's promises in the Old Testament, drawing from the example of Eli's lineage and the potter analogy in Jeremiah 18. Explain how this concept influences our understanding of divine faithfulness and human responsibility.
4. Examine the role of leadership in 1 Samuel 2:12-36, specifically comparing Samuel's growth in favor with the Lord to Eli's failure to address the wickedness of his sons. How does this section inform our understanding of godly leadership?
5. Consider how the themes presented in 1 Samuel 2:12-36, such as the importance of honoring God, the consequences of sin, and the sovereignty of God's will, remain relevant to individuals and communities today. Provide modern examples to support your argument.

Glossary

B'lah (בְּלִיָּה): Hebrew word meaning "worthless" or "wicked." It is used to describe the sons of Eli and indicates their moral depravity.

Ephod: A priestly garment, sometimes used in divination to seek God's will. It is mentioned in connection with both Samuel and the priestly duties of Eli's lineage.

Gadol (גָּדוֹל): Hebrew word meaning "to grow" or "become big". It is used to describe both Samuel's physical and spiritual growth, as well as the great sin of Eli's sons, highlighting the contrasting trajectories.

Immutability: A theological attribute of God describing his unchanging nature, that he is always faithful to his nature as loving, merciful, and gracious.

Jeremiah 18: A chapter in the Old Testament where God uses the analogy of a potter shaping clay to explain his relationship with nations and how they influence his actions. It serves as a key passage to understand the conditional nature of God's promises.

Man of God: A term used to refer to a prophet or a messenger of God. In this text, a "man of God" confronts Eli with a divine message of judgment.

Poetic Justice: A concept where the punishment is fitting or corresponds to the nature of the crime. This is seen in the Lord's judgment on Eli's family, where their greed and abuse of priestly office leads to a future of poverty and humiliation.

Shiloh: The location of the sanctuary where the Tabernacle was located during the time of Eli and Samuel. This was the central place of worship, where sacrifices were brought and where Eli and his sons served.

Tov (טוֹב): Hebrew word for "good" used to describe the favor and goodness associated with Samuel in contrast to the wickedness of Eli's sons, who did things that were "lo tovah."

Tent of Meeting: Another term used for the Tabernacle, a sacred tent where God met with his people and where priests served. The actions of Eli's sons are particularly egregious because they happened at this holy place.

5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 2, 1 Samuel 2:12-36 – Disrespect Can Be Deadly, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

1. **What is the main contrast presented in 1 Samuel 2:12-36?**
2. The main contrast is between the righteous Samuel and the wicked sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas. Samuel is portrayed as faithfully ministering before the Lord and growing in favor with both God and men. In sharp contrast, Eli's sons are depicted as wicked men who have no regard for the Lord, treating his offerings with contempt, and engaging in other immoral acts, ultimately leading to their demise. This contrast serves to highlight the consequences of disrespecting God and the blessings that come from faithful service.
3. **How did Eli's sons show disrespect towards the Lord, and what specific actions led to their downfall?**
4. Eli's sons showed disrespect through several actions. First, they did not recognize the Lord's authority and treated the sacrificial offerings with contempt. They took the best portions of the meat for themselves before the fat was burned for the Lord and even demanded raw meat directly from those offering sacrifices. They also "slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting." These acts of greed and disregard for God's commands demonstrated a profound lack of respect, leading to God's judgment against them.
5. **Why was the sin of Eli's sons considered "very great in the Lord's sight"?**
6. While the actions of Eli's sons might seem minor on the surface, they were considered "very great in the Lord's sight" because they violated specific commands laid out in the law. Their actions were not just about taking extra meat; they were acts of defiance against God's established order. The text specifically links this level of seriousness to other grave sins like idolatry and adultery. Their disrespect and greed demonstrated a lack of fear and reverence for God, which made their sin particularly severe.

7. **What role does Samuel play in this narrative, and how does he contrast with Eli's sons?**
8. Samuel's role is that of a righteous servant of the Lord, a stark contrast to Eli's wicked sons. He faithfully ministers before the Lord and grows in stature and favor with God and men. The author uses Samuel to demonstrate that even amidst corruption, faithfulness exists. Samuel is also the one who will eventually remove Saul from kingship and anoint David as king, and his righteousness here is being established. His growth and goodness contrast sharply with the "great" sin of Eli's sons, demonstrating a clear distinction between those who honor God and those who despise Him.
9. **What was Eli's role in the downfall of his sons, and why wasn't his rebuke enough?**
10. Eli, though seemingly trying to correct his sons by rebuking them, ultimately fails in his responsibility as a leader and father. His rebuke was not enough because he did not remove them from their priestly positions or stop them from their sinful practices. He also participates in their sin by eating the meat they took. The Lord expected Eli to take decisive action, and his lack of decisive action indicated that he was more concerned with his sons than with the honor of God.
11. **How does the concept of conditional promises relate to Eli's family, and is God unfaithful by removing his promise?**
12. The text suggests that God's promises are not always unconditional or irrevocable. God made a promise to Eli's family to serve as priests forever, but this promise was conditional on their faithfulness and obedience. Eli and his sons' actions demonstrated they did not honor the Lord, thus forfeiting their right to the promise. God is not considered unfaithful because the removal of the promise is a consequence of their disobedience. The promise was contingent on faithfulness, making its removal a just outcome of their behavior.

13. What is the significance of the "man of God" appearing to Eli, and what is the content of his message?

14. The "man of God" represents a prophetic voice conveying God's judgment to Eli. The message delivered by this prophet emphasizes that God had chosen Eli's family to serve as priests and provided for them through the offerings of the people, but their contemptuous actions had brought about God's severe judgment. The message also declared that the line of Eli would lose their priestly position and their descendants would die in the prime of life, which is seen as divine favor. This prophetic declaration is a crucial turning point, highlighting the consequences of Eli and his sons' disrespect and foreshadowing the rise of Samuel.

15. What does the narrative teach us about the relationship between God's character, human behavior, and the consequences of sin?

16. The narrative illustrates several key aspects of the relationship between God, human behavior, and consequences. Firstly, it underscores that God is holy and demands respect, and those who treat Him with contempt will face severe consequences. Secondly, it shows that God's promises are not always unconditional but depend on faithfulness and obedience. Thirdly, the story demonstrates that sin has far-reaching effects, impacting not just the sinner but also their family. Lastly, it highlights that while God desires mercy and repentance, he will ultimately judge those who persist in evil, even if they hold positions of religious authority.