

Samuel – God’s Kingdom and its King. (3) Those who honour Me, I will honour. refs for Bible study 5/9/19:  
1Sam.2v11-36.

A passage of striking contrasts: Some people are faithful, others faithless. Some honour the Lord, others don't.

**The curse of corrupt leadership.** Eli had led the nation for 40 years. Corrupt. His sons did not know the Lord, v12, but were supposed to be the spiritual leaders. Ungodly practice, v13-17, robbing the worshippers and treating God with contempt. Shocking sexual sin mentioned almost as afterthought, v22. The greatest sin: v17.

**The quiet progress of God’s grace.** Well might the faithful despair over such a situation. Yet all the time God was faithfully working out his purposes. See how the account is punctuated: *‘But the child...’* v11; *‘But Samuel...’* v18; *‘Meanwhile Samuel...’* v21; *‘And the child Samuel...’* v26; *‘Then the boy Samuel...’* 3v1. Things may seem hopeless but God is quietly at work. Hannah’s prayers are bearing fruit. Her son is growing in grace and stature. A direct parallel of v21 & 26 in the sending of The Prophet, Lk.2v40 & 52. Corrupt leadership within the ‘church’ is a curse. But God will deal with it in his own time, Mt.7v22-23, Jas.3v1. Meanwhile he quietly raises up ‘Hannahs’ & ‘Samuels’ to ensure his Word is faithfully proclaimed, Mt.16v18.

**The feeble priest – failure to honour God.** Eli’s response was feeble, v22-25. No family or church discipline. Why so serious? Read Jesus’ words: Mt.15v14 & 23v15. v25b alerts us to the awesome truth of judicial hardening, Rom.1v24, 26. An un-named man of God comes with a faithful prophecy of judgement, v27-36. ‘You have honoured your sons more you’ve honoured God’, v29. The abiding principle is spelt out: *‘those who honour Me, I will honour’*, v30. Honouring God can be costly, but failing to honour him is far more costly! We do well to examine our own lives, families, and priorities in the light of this truth.

**The faithful Priest who lives for ever.** The prophecy also contains a promise, v35. God will raise up a faithful priest. Most agree this was fulfilled in Zadok the priest, 2Sam.8v7, 1Kg.2v27,35. But as so often in prophecy we’re intended to ‘see double’. Even the best of earthly priests did not always *‘do according to what is in God’s heart and mind’*. That is only true of one – our faithful High Priest, Heb.3v2, 7v1. In OT days it was forbidden for a man to be both king and priest (see Saul 1Sam.13, Uzziah 2Chr.26). That Messiah, and Messiah alone, would be both King and Priest was not revealed until Zc.6v9. Jesus Christ alone is King and Priest forever. Since our God is faithful, and our High Priest is faithful, we too should be faithful and honour him in all things.