



Part 3 - Light Up the Battlefield

September 7th, 2025

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:12-36; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 2:9

Main Idea: Darkness spread through the House of the Lord with Eli's family. But even in darkness, God always raises up a light. The question is whether or not we respond.

👉 We're not going to use the **light** if we don't even realize it's **dark**.

1. DARKNESS - Eli's Sons (1 Samuel 2:12-17)

- (v12) "scoundrels" = "sons of worthlessness"
- (v12) "no regard" = They didn't know Yahweh God!!
- (v13-17) they disregarded actual Torah instructions and made up their own! [Leviticus 3:3-5, 7:23-25, 31-34; Deuteronomy 18:3]
- (v17) "very great" = their sin was *exceedingly* great — it was an act of rebellion
- (v17) "treating... with contempt" = they "despised" the offering *and* the LORD!

2. LIGHT - Samuel (1 Samuel 2:18-21)

- (v18) "ministering before the LORD" = "walking with the LORD"
- (v18) "grew up in the presence" = Samuel *knew* the LORD!
- **We are the light of the world!** (Sermon on the Mount - Matt 5:14-16)
 - *Does our faith in Jesus impact our everyday language?*
 - *Are we speaking out, or are we keeping quiet?*

👉 Even when Good's house is covered in **darkness**, God always raises up a **light**.

3. DARKNESS - Eli & His Sons (1 Samuel 2:22-25)

- (v22-23) "women" = they represented the holiness of God's house
- "Uncovering the nakedness of the women was as much as ripping down the curtains of the tabernacle." (Dr. Peter Leithart, *A Son to Me*)
- Eli turned a blind eye to their sin

4. LIGHT - Samuel (1 Samuel 2:26)

- (v26) Luke saw Samuel's growth as foreshadowing Jesus (Luke 2:52)
- Note: Samuel's character was being shaped by God's presence, and people noticed and respected him for it

👉 **Consider This:** If we're turning a blind eye to sin, we're allowing darkness to grow. But if we live the faith we profess, that's what pushes back the powers of darkness and points people to Jesus!

5. DARKNESS - Eli & Family (1 Samuel 2:27-36)

- (v27) "a man of God" = a prophet of the LORD from outside the camp
 - Eli should've heard from God, but didn't (failed priest)
- (v29) "scorn" = "to kick" or "despise" (see Deuteronomy 32:15)
 - Eli & his sons "kicked" (rejected) God
 - They grew "fat" on the LORD's portion (1 Samuel 4:18)
- (v30) remember Hannah's prayer: 1 Samuel 2:6-8
- (v30) God was taking away the priesthood of Eli's family
- (v31-34) Eli's family would die early; his sons would die on the same day
 - (v25) "it was the LORD's will to put them to death."
 - God was extremely patient — but eventually gave them over to their own demise — God's patience and kindness is meant to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4)

6. LIGHT - Samuel, Jesus and Us (1 Samuel 2:35; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 2:9)

- (v35) near context: points to a new priestly line [Zadok, 1 Kings 2:35]
- (v35) far context: points to Jesus as the faithful priest; we are His "house" (Hebrews 3:6) and a "royal priesthood" (2 Peter 2:9)

👉 We are light-bringers and peacemakers. We stand in the strength of Jesus as more than conquerors. And as long as the world still has darkness, **we're called to bring Light to the battlefield.**

7. Going Deeper:

- READ 1 Samuel 2:22-25, Ezekiel 33:7-9 & Ephesians 5:11-13. Where am I tempted to stay silent instead of confronting darkness with God's light?
- READ Matthew 5:14-16, Romans 12:21, Colossians 2:15. Where is God calling me to "light up the battlefield" this week (family, workplace, friendships, community)?