



Part 3 - Light Up the Battlefield

November 23, 2025

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Main Idea: Even when God's house is covered in darkness, God raises up a light. The question is whether we will join or ignore Him.

👉 The greatest spiritual threat we face is becoming so **desensitized to darkness** that we no longer recognize the evil around us.

1. Recognize the Darkness (Eli's Sons — 1 Samuel 2:12-17)

- Eli's Sons:
 - "Sons of worthlessness."
 - "They knew not Yahweh."
 - Took God's portion for themselves.
 - Treated the LORD's offering with contempt (v17).

2. Contrast: Worthless Priests vs. Faithful Samuel (1 Samuel 2:18–21, 26)

- Samuel:
 - Ministered before the LORD as a boy.
 - Grew "in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people."
 - The LORD was with him.
- Eli's Sons:
 - Grown men, seasoned priests... but the LORD was not with them.
 - Spiritually dead.

3. Our Response Matters (1 Samuel 2:22-26)

- Eli stayed silent → darkness spread
- Ordinary moments become spiritual warfare when we speak truth instead of choosing silence

👉 When we **point people to Jesus**, we're pushing back the powers of darkness.

4. God Confronts Corrupt Leadership (1 Samuel 2:27-30)

- “a man of God” rebukes Eli:
 - Eli and sons scorned God’s offering (*ba’at* = “to kick, despise”).
 - God withdraws the priestly promise from Eli’s house.
- **Key Truth:** God does not honor those who despise Him.

5. Judgment Comes After Patience (1 Samuel 2:31-34)

- They had been committing these sins for years.
- God was patient, but they refused to turn back.
- “Those who oppose the LORD will be broken” (Hannah, 2:10).
- God takes no pleasure in judgment (Ezek 33:11).

6. God Raises Up A Faithful Priest (1 Samuel 2:35)

- Layers of Fulfillment:
 - **Near:** Eli’s line replaced; a new priestly house (Zadok, 1 Kings 2:35).
 - **Ultimate:** Jesus, the faithful High Priest.
 - **Ongoing:** His “*priestly house*” = **the Church** (that’s us!)

7. Our Identity as Priests (Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6)

- Every follower of Jesus is a priest. We’re called to represent God to the world... right here, right now.
- Darkness must be confronted with Light
 - Jesus already disarmed the powers of evil (Colossians 2:15)
 - He calls us to advance His Kingdom (Matthew 16:18)

👉 **As long as the world still has darkness, we’re called to shine the light of Jesus on the battlefield.**

8. Going Deeper:

- READ Ephesians 5:11-13. What areas of my life am I tempted to stay silent instead of confronting darkness with the Light of Jesus?
- 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)?