

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

# 1 SAMUEL

[PART 5]

## THE UNKNOWN PROPHET AND THE WELL KNOWN TEXT

*Reading: 1 Samuel 2:26 - 34*

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### Introduction

- The backdrop to this next scene in our drama is the priestly house of Eli.
- It ought to be a godly home but instead it's a wicked home.
- Eli's sons were wicked and corrupt causing the people to despise the things of God.
- They were priests on the outside but hypocrites on the inside.  
[Isaiah 52:11].
- They ignored their father's rebuke and subsequently their days were numbered.

### 1 The Unknown Prophet

- [Vs 27] **'A man of God'** comes to Eli. A bright light shines in the darkness.
- The term **'man of God'** is used 78 times in Bible and is applied to some 13 different people.
- It is attributed to the likes of Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah and Elisha.
- It is only used twice in the NT. [1 Timothy 6] and [2 Timothy 3].
- The goal of the church is to produce both men and women of God.
- Ulster and Britain need men and women of God.
- Who this particular **'man of God'** was remains a mystery.
- **Lesson:** God always has his men no matter how dark the times may be.
- He reminds Eli of God's appointment of him and God's provision for him.
- He accuses Eli of **'honouring'** his sons over Jehovah.
- He announces God's judgement on Eli's house and how God will establish a godly replacement.
- After delivering his message he leaves and is never heard of again.

## 2 The Well Known Text

- [Vs 30] has become a well known text in Christian circles.
- ***“Those who honour me, I will honour.”***
- Hannah herself honoured God by keeping her vow and God honoured her with 5 more children.

## 3 The Example Of Puah And Shiphrah

- In [Exodus 1] Israel are made a nation of slaves in Egypt.
- Pharaoh wishes to limit their birthrate and so orders midwives to kill all baby boys born.
- The Egyptian government had passed a law contrary to God’s law.
- [Exodus 1:13] tells us about 2 Hebrew midwives who defied the Pharaoh to honour God.
- They honoured God and in turn God honoured them. [Exodus 1:20/21].

## 4 The Example Of Ebed-Melek

- We read this incident in [Jeremiah chapters 38/39].
- For prophesying God’s judgement on Judah, the princes lowered Jeremiah into a dungeon beneath the city.
- Defying the princes, an Ethiopian official persuaded king Zedekiah to release him from what would have become his tomb.
- He honoured God by saving God’s spokesman.
- Jehovah honoured Ebed-Melek by promising him he would be saved in the imminent holocaust. [Jeremiah 39:17/18].

## 5 The Example Of Eric Liddell

- The account of Eric Liddell is the true story behind the 1981 film, ***‘Chariots Of Fire,’***
- Liddell was to run in the 100m at the 1924 Paris Olympics.
- When it was revealed the heats for the race were to be run on the Sunday, he refused to run.
- The majority of people were not sympatric towards him over his decision.
- He ran in the 400m instead which was a weak event for him.
- Before the race started someone put a piece of paper with our text on it in his hand.
- This inspired him to run and win gold in a new world record time of 47.6 seconds.
- ***“Them who honour me, I will honour.”***

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