

THE LAMP OF GOD WENT OUT

1 SAMUEL 2-3

Text: 1 Samuel 3:3

(1 Sam 3:3) "And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;"

Introduction:

Eli was a judge in Israel, and a Levite. He was the High Priest of Israel whose duty was to oversee the events of the tabernacle, and to bring into the Holy of Holies once a year the sacrifice for Israel.

For many years Eli had been faithful as the High Priest. He had two sons, Hophni and Phineas had had grown up in church and was to be taught the duties of their father.

Another duty of Eli's was to keep the Lamp of the Lord burning.

(Exo 27:20) "And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always."

But in our text we read that the lamp of the God had went out.

I'm afraid that there many lamps today that are either burning very dimly or have gone out as well.

We are reminded in Scripture by the Lord Himself

(Mat 5:14-16) "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. {15} Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. {16} Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Because of Eli's failure, Israel had no open vision. The presence of God was gone and no prophets spoke in Israel for a long time. God had written Ichabod across the temple.

Phineas' wife bore a son and she named the son Ichabod.

(1 Sam 4:21) "And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband."

How does the Lamp of God go out? What is the result of allowing the Lamp to go out? What is the certain out come?

Why did the Lamp of God go out?

1. CARELESSNESS

Notice how Eli had become careless.

A. Lackadaisical at home. (1 Sam 2:12-17)

1. Didn't attend to disciplining his boys.
2. Didn't attend to training his boys.

B. Looseness (1 Sam 2:22-25)

1. Swept the issue under the rug instead of dealing with it.

C. Laziness (1 Sam 3:1-3)

1. Was laying instead of laboring.

His Carelessness Lead To Confrontation and
Condemnation

2. CONFRONTATION AND CONDEMNATION (1 SAM 2:27-36)

This came from an unknown man of God.

A. Reminded of his past blessings

1. Appeared
2. Choose
3. Given an offering

B. Reviewed his sin.

1. Honored his sons above the Lord.

C. Revelation of loss.

1. Position
2. People
3. Certainty

When people become careless with the things of God it is certain that the Lamp of God will become dim or completely go out.