

ELI AND HIS SONS

I Samuel 2: 12-17; 4: 1-18

Day by day Samuel grew wiser and more pleasing to God as he served with Eli in the tabernacle. Perhaps Eli noticed



his goodness all the more because his own sons were not good. He had tried to teach them to do right, but although they served in the tabernacle because the sons of the priests were all supposed to do that, they were doing all sorts of the very wickedest kind of things right there in God's house, and not loving God at all.

So that night when God's voice called to Samuel, it was a message about these sons which God sent by Samuel to Eli. Samuel loved Eli, and it made him

very sad to tell him what God had said, but in the morning he had to give the message. God said that Eli's two sons would die in one day, and that Eli's family should not be great and honored any more.

But nothing happened that day, nor the next—not for several years. Then one day men came hurrying to beg Eli to let them take from the tabernacle the precious Ark of the Covenant. This was the most sacred thing in the world, for