

FATHER DOESN'T KNOW BEST
1 SAMUEL 1-4 / 1-14-18 / P.M.

I. ELI'S LIFE.

- A. He was a descendant of Ithamar, the youngest son of Aaron.
- B. He was the high priest at Shiloh.
- C. He helped raise Samuel.
- D. He also served as the next to last "Judge" of Israel, following Samson's death.
- E. He became Judge at the age of 58 and served for 40 years until his death.
- F. His sons apparently were born when he was an older man.
- G. Although his sons were priests they were godless—1 Sam 2:17.
- H. He was ineffective as a father—2:22-25.
 - 1. God sent an unnamed prophet to pronounce God's judgment—I Sam. 2:27-28.
 - 2. His sons were killed by the Philistines and the Ark of the Covenant was captured—1 Sam. 4:11.
 - 3. Eli died when he heard the news—I Sam. 4:18.

II. ELI'S LESSONS.

- A. Eli's failure as a father reminds us of the importance of Christian parenting
 - 1. Listen to God's instructions to parents—Pro. 13:24; 19:18; 29:15; 29:17.
 - 2. Listen also to child psychologist James Dobson's advice to parents.
- B. What other lessons are there for parents?
 - 1. Don't neglect your children even if you are doing things for God.
 - 2. Faith is more "caught" than "taught."
 - 3. It's never too late to influence your children positively.
 - 4. "Preach less" and "pray more."
 - 5. Others?