

The King & The Kingdom

1 Samuel 2 Discussion Questions

1. One of the major themes of the Bible that we see in this chapter is the great reversal of fortunes: “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” What are some specific ways we see this theme in Hannah’s song?

God Opposes the Proud

2. We see the pride and arrogance of Eli’s sons, the priests, in their contempt for the offering (v.17). This might not seem too serious to us because we are not required to make these kinds of sacrifices. Why was their sin so serious?

3. What are some ways we might show similar contempt for the Lord in our context?

4. Another sin of Eli’s sons was that they “lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting” (v.22). Why would God be opposed to this behavior?

5. We see God’s opposition to the priests through Eli’s rebuke (v.25). How would you respond to someone who said, “if it was the will of the Lord to put them to death, then they didn’t have any choice”?

6. A prophet (“man of God”) rebukes Eli for his son’s behavior (v.29). Why is Eli being held responsible for his sons’ sin? What lessons do we learn from this?

7. Is it difficult for you to understand how God could promise something to Eli but then “go back” on His promise (v.30)? How would you explain this conditional promise? Do we see this same kind of conditional promise in the New Testament?

8. God’s glory in salvation is found not only in showing grace and exalting the humble. His glory in salvation is also seen in opposing the proud and bringing down the arrogant. What are some other stories or passages of Scripture that demonstrate this truth?

9. Do you have a difficult time thinking about God’s glory in his judgment and wrath? Why is it important that we consider this aspect of God?

10. Why do you think people who are close to God in proximity and familiarity are often the people who become the most “comfortable” and who end up being the most arrogant? How can we make sure we are not the proud whom God opposes?

11. Have you ever found it to be especially comforting knowing there will be a day when justice is restored?

God Gives Grace To The Humble

12. Unlike the priests, Samuel will be exalted by God. How is Samuel different from the priests?

13. What are some ways this chapter points forward to King David? What are some ways this passage points forward to King Jesus?

14. Explain how at the cross we see both the grace and wrath of God intermingled in a unique way. What difference does this make for us?