

1 Samuel Lesson 2 Hannah and the Birth of Samuel Part 1

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background:

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Barren Women in Israel: Bearing children in Israel was viewed as a blessing from God. It followed that the inability to bear children was seen as a punishment from God. A barren woman was often put aside by her husband or ostracized. In some cases the husband would take a second wife who could bear him children.

Shiloh: At this time in the history of Israel it was the place where the ark of the covenant and the Tabernacle resided.

Annual Sacrifice: The Law required the Israelites to bring an annual sacrifice to the place of God's choosing where He dwelt. (See Deuteronomy 12:11-14) Also according to Deuteronomy 16:16 all Israelite males were to travel to the place of God's choosing yearly to celebrate 3 different feasts. The text here does not specify the reason for Elkanah's annual visit.. In any case, it involved a sacrifice and after wards a shared meal.

Key Words:

favor - (NASB) : Strong's H2580 "chen" favor or grace The name Hannah also means favor or grace.

(Lord of) Hosts: Strong's H6635 "tsaba" persons organized for a war or campaign. This name of God was also called "Lord Sabaoth". It was often used in connection with the ark of the covenant. It designates God as King and Ruler over the nations and the Divine Warrior of Israel. He will protect, deliver and rescue His covenant people.

As we begin our study of 1 Samuel keep in mind that this book along with 2 Samuel is part of the story of the history of Israel. The story begins with Samuel, a great prophet and the last judge of Israel. It then progresses to the story of the first earthly kings of Israel, Saul and David. Throughout the 2 books the author continually points us to the true divine King of Israel, Jesus.

Read 1 Samuel Chapter 1:1-20

1. In 1 Samuel 1:1-3 what can you learn about Elkanah and his wives?

2. In our introduction, we learned that the book of 1 Samuel begins at the time of the judges when "everyone did what was right in their own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Elkanah and his family were a godly family living in this society. In 1 Samuel 1:1-20 find evidences that show how Elkanah and his family regarded the Lord and His Word.

Application: Our society today is much like that of Israel's then. "Everyone does what is right in their own eyes." What are some personal challenges you face in trying to obey God in the workplace, school and among your unbelieving friends?

3. According to 1 Samuel 1:2 , what was Hannah's problem? Who had caused this problem (1:5)? What did she suffer because of this problem? (1:6-7) and finally, how much help was her husband, Elkanah (1:8) ?

4. In great distress and helpless to change her situation,, Hannah took her problem to the Lord. What does Hannah's prayer reveal about her attitude toward herself, her personal relationship with the Lord, and her view of who God is (how did she address God)? (1:10-11)?

Application: As Christians we encounter many trials. What are some ways we often seek help? Who should we go to first?

Application: What did our Lord Sabaoth, Jesus, deliver us from when we were helpless to deliver ourselves (Romans 5:6-8)

5. As Hannah prayed, presumably on the steps of the temple, she was misunderstood by Eli the priest who considered her drunk. (1:12-14) What does this tell us about the worship of God in Israel at this time?

6. After Hannah prayed and was blessed by Eli the priest, how did she change? (1:18) Was this before or after her prayer was answered?

Application : As we take our problems and trials to the Lord what does He promise? See Philippians 4:6-7

Can you share a time you experienced the "peace of god" after praying and giving the burden of a problem to the Lord.

