

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

THE FAITH OF HANNAH

Introduction:

1. The book of First Samuel is a book of transitions.
 - a. From judges to kings
 - b. From tribes to kingdom
 - c. From priests to prophets
 2. There are four main characters in the book.
 - a. Eli
 - b. Samuel
 - c. Saul
 - d. David
 3. If Judges is the book of “no king,” then 1 Samuel is the book of “man’s king” (Saul) and 2 Samuel is the book of “God’s king” (David).
 4. The first seven chapters of this book take place during the time of the judges.
 5. With chapter 8, we see the beginning of the United Kingdom of Israel.
 6. The story of the Judges ended with hope being brought by the faithfulness of a woman of Moab, Ruth. *{Chronologically, it ended with Samson’s fight against the Philistines.}*
 7. The story of the kingdom begins with a similar hope, the birth of Samuel due to the faithfulness of Jewish woman named Hannah.
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- I. Hannah’s Sorrow (1:1-8)
 - A. Hannah’s background (1:1-3)
 1. Hannah was married to Elkanah, a Levite who lived in Ephraim (cf. 1 Chronicles 6:26-27).
 2. It seems that he was a native of Bethlehem in Judah (cf. Gen. 35:19; Ruth 1:2; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6).
 3. As the book of Judges indicated, there was corruption in the priesthood.
 4. Elkanah had two wives – Hannah and Peninnah.
 5. While Peninnah had borne children to her husband, Hannah had not.
 6. Yet, Elkanah was diligent in worshipping the Lord before the tabernacle in Shiloh.
 7. Note the name of God here is “Jehovah of hosts.”
 - a. The word “hosts” refers to the stars (Isa. 40:26; Psalm 147:4).
 - b. The word “hosts” refers to angels (Psalm 103:20-21).
 - c. The word “hosts” refers to armies (Exo. 12:41).
 - d. It is the same as “Lord of Sabaoth” (Rom. 9:29; Jam. 5:4).
 - e. It will be significant in the many battles fought in this book.
 - B. Hannah’s barrenness (1:4-8)
 1. The fact that Peninnah had numerous children was a vexation to Hannah, especially during this time of worship.
 2. When the portions of the offering were divided among the family members, Peninnah and her children received much.
 3. Hannah, alone, should have received only one portion – but, her husband demonstrated his love by giving her a “worthy portion.”
 4. Still, she remained unable to bear children.

1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:11

5. Along with these troubles, Peninnah provoked Hannah over her barrenness. *{Note that Hannah means “grace” or “favor.”}*
 6. Hannah became so troubled that she would not eat.
 7. In kindness, Elkanah tried to comfort her, but Hannah continued in her sorrow.
- C. Lesson: *Only God could help Hannah and ease her sorrow.*
- II. Hannah’s Solution (1:9-11)
- A. She Rose Up!
 1. Hannah realized that feeling sorry for herself would accomplish nothing.
 2. She also realized that she could not solve this problem alone.
 - B. She Prayed!
 1. Thus, Hannah turned her sorrow over to God.
 2. She prayed fervently and sincerely.
 - C. She Made a Vow!
 1. She expressed her trust in God by making a vow to Him.
 2. Consider that the future of the nation of Israel rested on the decision of this heartbroken, godly woman.
 - D. Lesson: *We serve a God who hears our prayers (1 Pet. 5:7; Phil. 4:6-7).*
- III. Hannah’s Satisfaction (1:12-18)
- A. The view we are given of the circumstances at the Lord’s tabernacle in Shiloh is not pleasant.
 1. Drunkenness
 2. Robbery and violence (2:13-17)
 3. Fornication (2:22)
 - B. Eli, the priest, even accused Hannah of being drunken when he saw her pray.
 - C. When she explained her situation, Eli blessed her and prayed that God would grant her request.
 - D. So, Hannah left her sorrows behind and began to eat again.
 - E. Lesson: *When we cast our cares upon God, we must have faith in Him.*
- IV. Hannah’s Son (1:19-23)
- A. God remembered Hannah – He called her to mind and blessed her.
 - B. She gave birth to a son, who she named Samuel.
 1. Samuel means “God heard” or “asked of God.”
 2. Hannah had asked of God and He had heard!
 - C. Hannah cared for her son so that when he went up to the tabernacle he could stay there for the rest of his life.
 - D. Lesson: *God remembers His children; will our children remember God?*
- V. Hannah’s Sacrifice (1:24-28)
- A. Hannah did not forget her vow to God. *{Nor did Elkanah, for that matter (cf. Numbers 30:3-8).}*
 - B. While the child was still young (probably 3 or 4 years old), she brought him to Shiloh with offerings to God.
 - C. Thus, she gives Samuel back to the Lord.
 - D. Lesson: *Never forget a vow!*

1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:11

- VI. Hannah's Song (2:1-11)
 - A. Hannah's prayer is also a song of praise – or a song worded as a prayer.
 - B. Consider that Hannah did not weep over her sacrifice, but prayed and praised God. {Compare this with the song of Mary in Luke 1:46-55.}
 - C. Hannah praised God for His majesty (vs. 1-3).
 - 1. God was her source of joy and strength.
 - 2. She could not help but speak of her salvation from barrenness (and see it as hope of salvation from Israel's enemies).
 - 3. God is a holy and just protector of His faithful.
 - D. Hannah praised God for His methods (vs. 4-8).
 - 1. God often does things differently from the way man would accomplish them as a demonstration of His power and rule.
 - 2. In the end, God reigns over the earth – He is the King of all nations.
 - E. Hannah praised God for His might (vs. 9-10).
 - 1. Her song ends with a look forward to God's victory of Israel's enemies and to the ultimate victory over Satan and sin.
 - 2. Though God would allow Israel to have a king, Jehovah would still rule and bring forth the Messiah, the King of kings.
 - F. Elkanah and Hannah returned home (cf. vs. 21) to Ramah where they had five more children.
 - G. Samuel remained in Shiloh where he served the Lord under the oversight of Eli, the priest.

SONS OF LEVI
(1 Chronicles 6)

- 1. Gershon
- 2. Merari
- 3. Kohath
 - A. Amram
 - 1. Aaron (*Priests*)
 - a. Nadab
 - b. Abihu
 - c. Eleazar
 - d. Ithamar
 - 2. Moses
 - 3. Miriam
 - B. Amminadab
 - 1. Korah
 - a. Assir
 - i. Elkanah
 - A. Zophai
 - 1. Nahath
 - a. Eliab
 - i. Jeroham
 - A. Elkanah
 - 1. Samuel