

# I SAMUEL 1-2

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## INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**
  - Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible - Genesis to Revelation
  - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
  - We have finished **Ruth** - and will continue on to the Book of **I Samuel**...
  - We have already completed the 5 ‘book of the Law’ Genesis - Deuteronomy...
  - **I Samuel** is the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 12 books of the History of Israel in the Old Testament...
- **THE OUTLINE OF I SAMUEL...**
  - There are 31 chapters in the book of **I Samuel**...
  - We will cover between 1-2 chapters a week (*4 months*) - highlighting key sections...
  - **Chapters 1-8** - THE PROPHET SAMUEL - the fall of the Aaronic line - and rise of the Kings...
  - **Chapter 9-15**- KING SAUL - the reign of the first King of Israel...
  - **Chapter 16-31** - THE RISE OF KING DAVID - Saul is rejected by God as King of Israel...
    - God instead chooses a shepherd boy - and anoints him as the next King...
    - But Saul refuses to step aside - and attempts to hunt down and kill David...
- **OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF I SAMUEL...**
  - The book of I Samuel picks up at the end of the period of the Judges...
    - About 350 years after Israel first entered the Land under the leadership of Joshua...
    - The book open with the history of the last two Judges of Israel - Eli and Samuel...
    - The book ends with the transition from the Judges - the Kings of Israel...
  - Who wrote the book of **I Samuel**...
    - Samuel was not necessarily the author of the books - **I and II Samuel**...
    - In fact his death is recorded as part of the history in the book in **I Samuel 25**...
    - Rather the books bear his name because he was so influential in the history of Israel...
    - The first ½ of **I Samuel** is all about the prophet - and how he anointed Saul and David...
    - The remainder of the book and **II Samuel** are dedicated to following King David...
    - The Latin Vulgate labels the books - the I / II / III / and IV book of Kings
  - Who the book was written to...
    - Samuel was the last - and perhaps the greatest - of the judges of Israel...
    - But the people wanted to be like the others nations - they wanted a king...
    - **I Samuel 8:5-7** - “Give us a king like all the other nations have... ‘They are rejecting me’, the LORD replied, ‘They don’t want me to be their king any longer.’”
    - The book of was written to show what happens when we follow ‘other nations’
      - Being a Christian means we are not like the world - we are different...
      - We follow the Word of God - not the world - and it makes us stick out...
      - There is always a temptation to want to blend into the crowd – to be accepted...
      - God calls us to be a peculiar people - **I Peter 2:9** - we are not supposed to blend in!

- Giving us the opportunity to tell others about the hope we have in us - **I Peter 3:15**

## THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL... (3 THINGS)

- **1<sup>ST</sup> - NO CHILD FOR HANNAH...VS. 1-18** **READ: I SAMUEL 1:1-18**
  - A man from Ephraim - Elkanah (*bought by God*) - had two wives... vs. 1-8
    - Peninnah (*jewel*) and Hannah (*grace*) - and they did not like each other...
      - The Old Testament did not forbid multiple wives - the NT does - **Matthew 19:5...**
      - Because the original plan of God was one man and one woman - Adam & Eve...
      - Whenever polygamy occurs in the OT - it always caused huge problems...
      - Even the Rabbis came to teach that it was contrary to God's Law for marriage!
      - The historical books of the Bible record what people did – right or wrong...
      - Just because something is in a 'Book of History' does not make it right...
      - We have to look to the books of Doctrines to find out if it is a good example!
    - Every year Elkanah would travel to the Tabernacle for the festival (*Passover*)...
      - Elkanah would give a portion of the sacrifice (*Lamb*) to his wives and his children...
      - Peninnah had children - so she would receive the greater portion...
      - Hannah had no kids - but the Elkanah LOVED her - so gave her a double portion...
      - But Peninnah would mock Hannah - bitterness - brining Hannah to tears...
      - Hannah had the love - but Peninnah had the kids - neither were content!
    - Funny how we are never happy with what we have – only with what we do not...
      - We might be richer 50% of the world - but we look to the 50% who have more...
      - Rather than being thankful for clothes - we want nicer clothes...
      - Rather than being thankful for a job - we want a better job...
      - Envy is about wanting – not being content with whatever we have...
      - If we envy – no matter what we have – we are focused on what we do not have...
      - If we focus on what we do not have – we will have an empty miserable life...
      - It is when we give thanks for what the Lord has given us – we are blessed!
  - One year - after the feast Hannah went into the Tabernacle / Temple... vs. 9-18
    - She made a vow to God - if He gave her a son - she would dedicate him to the Lord...
      - As a sign of his dedication - he would be a Nazarite from birth - **Numbers 6...**
      - So often in life we want something - but we do not want it for the right reasons...
      - **James 4:3** - "When you ask, you do not get it because your whole motive is wrong - you want only what will give you pleasure."
      - Our motive is selfish - our heart is not right - so our prayer is not answered...
      - But when we ask for those things that God has given us a desire for - **Psalms 37:4**
      - Asking God to allow us to bless others - that is a prayer God WILL answer!
    - Eli the priests was watching Hannah - and thought she was drunk...
      - She was moving her lips - but was not saying a word...
        - He asked - 'How long will you be drunk - put away your wine!'
        - When we are seeking the Lord – people will often judge our motives...
        - They might accuse you of only coming to church – to see what you can get...
      - Hannah explained she was not a bad woman – she was crying out the Lord...
        - Eli quickly changed his tune – and told her - 'Then God grant your request!'
        - Not only did Hannah end with a son - God ended up giving her 6 children in all!

- o In the end you can always tell if someone has a pure motive for seeking God...
  - o It will be obvious from the blessings that God pours out on their life!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> - DEDICATED TO THE LORD...vs. 1:19 - 2:11 READ: I SAMUEL 1:24 - 2:1
- o The Lord heard Hannah - and gave her a son... vs. 21-28
  - She called his name Samuel (*God hears*) - because God heard her prayers...
    - Sometimes when we pray - it feels like God is not there - there is no answer...
    - And we wonder if He is even listening - did He get the 'message' that we sent...
    - God is always listening - in fact He records our every prayer – **Malachi 3:16**...
    - But that does not mean He will always answer us right away...
    - God's timing is not our timing - and we often have to wait for His plan to unfold!
  - Hannah waited till after Samuel had been weaned...
    - We do not know the exact age - but we are told Samuel was still young...
      - o Jewish tradition states that a child is fully weaned at 3 years old...
      - o Hanna gave Samuel to Eli the Priest - dedicating him to the service of the Lord!
      - o Hannah then went every year to visit Samuel - making him a new robe every time!
    - The dedication of Samuel to God - is where we get the idea of dedicating our kids...
      - o Our children are a gift from God - we only have them for a short time...
      - o As parents it is our opportunity - responsibility - to teach them about God...
      - o We dedicate our children to the Lord - not for their sakes - but for ours...
      - o We make a vow before God - to teach our children to know and follow Jesus!
      - o **Proverbs 22:6** – “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”
      - o Therefore we are to train up our children - teach them about Jesus...
      - o They ultimately have to make their choices - but we give them the foundation...
      - o **Ephesians 6:4** – “Fathers... bring them up with the instruction approved by the Lord.”
      - o Not just in words - but in our actions - our children will follow in our footsteps...
      - o Especially fathers - dads you set the example your children will follow...
- o The song of Hannah... vs. 1-11
  - My heart rejoices in the Lord - there is no one like our God...
    - Notice Hanna did not sing when Samuel was born – but when he was given away!
    - When God answers our prayers – it is easy to 'rejoice' in the Lord...
    - But how about when following Jesus – comes at a steep price – are we still singing...
  - Stop acting so proud - the Lord will judge you for what you have done...
    - The woman with no children has many - the one with children will have no more...
    - Hannah could rejoice because – she saw what God had done – gave her a son...
    - We also can rejoice when we think back - remember all God has done for us...
    - Then we are confident the Lord will work everything out – because He always has!
  - God raises up the poor / brings the rich low...
    - God sends people to the grave (*Sheol*) / but others He raises up - resurrection...
    - God protects the Godly - but the wicked will perish in darkness...
    - God will judge the whole world - no one can be saved by their own strength...
    - But God gives strength to His King - the Messiah (*first mention in the Bible*)...
    - LXX adds - do not boast in your wisdom / riches - instead that you know the Lord!
    - Hannah had joy in spite of the hardship of letting Samuel go – by looking to Jesus...
    - When we are going through tough times - our Joy comes from the knowing the Lord...
    - Happiness is not the same thing as Joy - happiness depends on our circumstances...
    - Joy is far deeper - it is not based on your circumstances - it is based on Jesus...

- Jesus never changes - the same Yesterday / Today / and Forever - **Hebrews 13:8...**
- So no matter what our circumstances - we can have Joy in because of Jesus!
- **3<sup>RD</sup> - WICKEDNESS OF HOPHNI (REBEL) AND PHINEHAS (BRASS)...vs. 12-36** **READ: I SAMUEL 2:12-17**
  - The sons of Eli were evil men - literally sons of the devil... vs. 12-17
    - They would take the best of the meat of the sacrifices (*steal*) from the people...
    - They had affairs with the women who came to worship...
    - They were such poor representatives of God - the people of Israel hated coming to God!
    - When Christian leaders only seek to get from God's people...
    - Liars - dishonest - and immoral - the people watching think that is what God is like...
    - Looking at those who are supposed to represent God...
    - It is not wonder people are not that interested in getting to know Jesus!
    - And God will judge these leaders for their misrepresentation - **James 3:1**
  - Eli knew his sons were doing evil - and did nothing... vs. 22-27
    - He talked to his sons - told them the reports he heard from the people...
      - He even warned them what they were doing was dangerous...
      - If they sinned against a man - they could stand before the judges (*eloheem*)...
      - But if they sinned against God - who would stand up for them!
    - Children who have no discipline - as they get older tend to become evil men...
      - Often only to end up in prison - deadbeats - or just simply dead....
      - Children need to learn the consequences of actions - learn obedience...
      - That is why parents need to be willing to teach and train their children in the Lord
      - **Proverbs 13:24** - "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly."
      - **Proverbs 22:15** - "Sin is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him."
  - A man of God came to Eli to warn him... vs. 28-36
    - God had chosen the descendents of Aaron to represent him to the people...
      - Yet Eli gave more honor to his sons - than to God whom he represented...
      - They had become fat off of the offerings of the people of God...
      - There are many 'preachers' and 'pastors' today - who have false motives...
      - Rather than caring for and feeding God's people - they take from them!
      - **Ezekiel 34:2** - "Prophecy against the leaders of Israel. Give them this message...
    - God promised a descendent of Aaron would always represent Him - **Exodus 40:15**
      - But because they had rejected God - therefore God rejected the line of Aaron...
      - God would wipe out the house of Aaron - none would live to be old men...
      - As a sign of the 'promise' Hophni and Phinehas would both die the same day...
      - Instead God would raise up a faithful Priest - the Messiah (*2<sup>nd</sup> time in the Bible*)...
      - **Hebrews 7:23-26** - "There were many priests under the old system. When one priest died, another had to take his place. But Jesus remains a priest forever; his priesthood will never end... He is the kind of high priest we need..."
      - It is dangerous to look to a man/priest/pastor to be our connection to God...
      - They are not perfect - and there is no guarantee they will always be there for us...
      - But Jesus is there for us anytime of day - any day of the week - any week of the year...
      - He is our High Priest - our bridge to God - and He never changes / a priest forever!