

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

We are beginning the first of the twin books 1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles were originally only 3 books.

In 300 BC, according to tradition, 72 Hebrew scholars translated the Hebrew scriptures into Greek.

6 men from each Hebrew tribe translated the OT (with the Apocrypha added) into Koine (common) Greek for the Hebrew population in Egypt.

*The Apocrypha was a collection of historical books written from 200 BC-400 AD.
In the 1400's Martin Luther was the first to clearly call out that they were not inspired words from God.*

In the Hebrew language there are no vowels, so as you can imagine, the written word on paper tripled in size. This translated book or Bible was called the Septuagint.

Alexander the Great had conquered the world bringing the Greek language everywhere.
Then when Rome took over, they built roads that connected the world together.

"All roads lead to Rome"

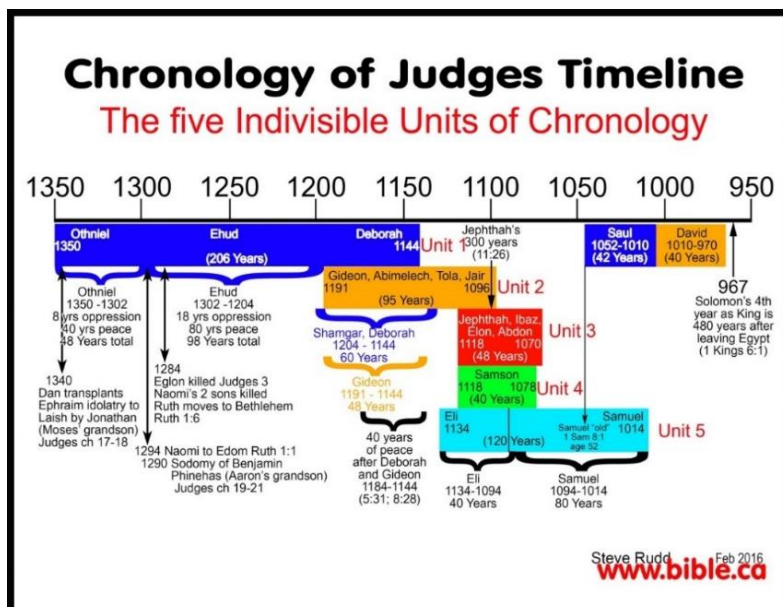
A common language and common travel helped Christianity, the Gospel and the Word of God reach millions.

In 405 AD, St Jerome translated the Hebrew text into Latin, the Latin Vulgate.
Vulgate means common language.

The 3 books, Samuel, Kings and Chronicles were each split into 2 books, 1 & 2 Samuel. 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles.

1 & 2 Samuel actually bridge the gap between the "time of the judges" and "the time of the kings."

"Samuel the Prophet" thus practically bridges the gulf between Samson the Judge and David the King: and there is deep significance in the fact that his name is identified with the two Books of Scripture which describe this great transitional period, every event of which was affected by his influence. F.B. Meyer



1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

The view is that the writer of the book is Samuel.

But he could not have written all of it, Samuel dies in chapter 25.

It is possible that a younger prophet that studied under Samuel wrote the remaining text.

Another thought is that Abiathar the priest, compiled the book.

1 Samuel 1:1

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

Ramathaim Zophim- or Ramah in **vs 19** is 5 miles north of Jerusalem.

Elkanah- "God has created", we are told he is a Levite **1 Chronicles 6:18-30 an Ephraimite**-he lived in Ephraim

He was a Levite so he served in the temple, yet he was not a descendant of Aaron, so he was not a high priest.

1 Samuel 1:2

And he had 2 wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Hannah- grace (no children)

Peninnah- pearl (has children)

Remember we are reading a narrative. God doesn't hide anything from us, good or bad. So we see polygamy again in this area of scripture but was never approved of by God.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

God's people adapted the polygamy lifestyle of the pagan nations around them.

Polygamy never ends well in scripture.

We struggle with the appearance that God allows polygamy. He allows it but He doesn't approve of it!

God has given us free-will, He does not stop us from sinning.

We wish He would sometimes, but there is a responsibility of choice that God has given us.

Our relationship with God is a choice. Will we be obedient?

Praise the Lord for God's grace and patience with us.

1 Samuel 1:3

This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the 2 sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

Elkanah is a religious man that worships every year at the Tabernacle in **Shiloh**.

Shiloh-place of rest

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

Shiloh is in central Israel; the Tabernacle was in Shiloh for almost 400 years. Today the outline ruins of the wall where the Tabernacle stood can be still seen.

And we are introduced to 3 more characters.

Eli- ascension

Hophni- one who fights with his fist

Phinehas- mouth of brass

There is a lot going on here with Eli and his sons so let's set the stage a bit with what is going on at the Tabernacle.

1 Samuel 2:12-15

Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling.

Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up.

So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."

Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

Hophni and Phinehas were serving at the tabernacle and did not know the LORD.

Is it possible to serve God and not know him? Yes, it is!

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Hophni and Phinehas were corrupt, we will see more of their actions in a moment.

Of the sacrifices that people brought to the tabernacle:

- a portion was given to God
- a portion was given to the priest,
- and a portion was kept by the one who brought the offering.

According to **Exodus 29:27-29** and **Leviticus 7:31**, the priest received a portion of the breast and the shoulder.

Now, some 400 years later, the priestly instruction has changed – they did not take the portion of the breast and shoulder, but took whatever the fork (fleshhook) brought up out of the pot.

God's portion was always first!

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

It was wrong to take the priest's portion before they burned the fat.

And why did they want this raw meat?

- So they could prepare it the way they wanted.
- Raw meat is easier to sell.

These guys are abusing the role of the Levite.

1 Samuel 2:16-17

And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force."

Therefore, the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

This is the Priest Mafia; they threaten violence to get what they wanted. They used the priestly servants around them to do the dirty work for them.

Can you imagine coming to the Tabernacle to offer to the Lord?

You are noticing that something isn't right here and a few guys come out and intimidate you to do it their way or they are going to take your sacrifice from you.

Through their violence, intimidation and greed, people did not want to come and worship!

Therefore, the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

I would not want to stand before the Lord and answer for deceiving people. Church leadership is held to a higher standard. We need to be very careful that we are never misrepresenting the Lord.

Go to verse 22:

1 Samuel 2:22-25

Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people.

"No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear, you make the LORD's people transgress.

If one man sins against another, God will judge him, but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless, they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

Eli is old and he cannot take the leadership role of the High Priest that Israel needs (nor has he).

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

His sons are committing sexual sins with the women who come to worship/serve and they are stealing from God's people. **Exodus 38:8**-women serving at the temple.

"Hophni and Phinehas show the heart of a hireling, an unfaithful shepherd who cares more about what he gets from God's people than what he can give to them."

Guzik

Sins of greed and sexual impurity often are hand in hand.
This greed and immorality is the evidence of self-will and the abuse of power.

The sin of the people has infiltrated the worship of God.
Yet God is still on the throne and is in full control.

We can never let anything come between us and our relationship with the Lord.

400 hundred years have passed since the Israelites had entered the Promised Land.

Solomon said, there is nothing new under the sun.
It is still true today, when we stray from Lord and allow man ways takes over; corruption is usually the byproduct.

Let's get back to chapter 1

1 Samuel 1:4

And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

No one who offered a sin offering ate any portion of it; but of the peace offerings or offerings of thanksgiving, the one with the offering, received a substantial portion.

Elkanah worshipped every year & gave an offering despite the wickedness that was going on in the tabernacle.

Can you imagine the excuses people came up with for not going to the Tabernacle to offer sacrifices and worship? We do the same thing today.

Never let anything come between you and the Lord, worship, church, being with God's people. The enemy will convince you that you will be fine without it. but the consequences leave us in confusion, doubt and self-pity.

1 Samuel 1:5

But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.

Elkanah loved (favored) Hannah, he gave her a double portion.

The Lord closed her womb, God sovereignty.

Genesis 20:18-House of Abimelech, God didn't allow the women to bear children

Genesis 29:31-God allowed Leah to have children

Genesis 30:22- God allowed Rachel to have children

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

1 Samuel 1:6

And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

Hannah's rival, Peninnah! The other woman.

This is a very difficult situation and some of you live this out daily.

- A spouse that isn't a believer (yet)
- A family member that isn't a believer (yet)
- Co-workers or bosses

You are ridiculed for your faith, for your commitment to Jesus, for going to church. This would give anyone a good reason to remove the Lord as a priority.

1 Samuel 1:7

So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore, she wept and did not eat.

Constant conflict and provoking.

Hannah is so upset from this that she cannot eat.

Did you know that emotional problems can sometimes become physical problems?

How could God use these circumstances in your life?

If you need help, please call!

We would love to encourage you and pray for you and seek the Lord for a resolve.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines;

Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food;

***Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

***The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.***

So now the man has a few words to say to his favorite wife.....

1 Samuel 1:8

Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than 10 sons?"

Guys, sometimes it is better to just keep your mouth shut.

Am I not better to you than 10 sons? Boy that is what she needed to hear! NOT!

Husbands, you cannot meet every need for your wife. But Jesus can!

Wives, your husband cannot meet your every need. But Jesus can!

Elkanah does love her, but he doesn't understand her need.

Hannah's problems:

- Her home- was not a place of refuge, it was a place of conflict.
- Her husband's heart- was not completely hers.
- Her husband understanding-he misunderstood her.

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (your wife) **with understanding,**

It should be your goal to figure your wife out! Understand her.
God would not instruct us to do it if it wasn't possible!
So do it! Work hard at it!

So what does Hannah do? She chooses to cry out to the Lord!

1 Samuel 1:9-10

So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

I am thinking that this situation brought a bit of humor to Hannah.
After Elkanah tells her that having him as a husband is better than 10 sons?
I can see her giving the eye roll?

She went to pray. Notice that she isn't bitter at God, she has **bitterness of soul**.

She went to God and wept.....

What lessons do you think God is teaching Hannah?
What lessons might the Lord be teaching you from Hannah's example?

1 Samuel 1:11

Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

O LORD of hosts: Hannah begins her prayer by calling on the **LORD of hosts**.
This is the first time that **LORD of hosts** is recorded in the Bible in a prayer.

Remember LORD is translated Yahweh! Of Host means-mighty armies!

Hannah is being attacked by her rival, and so calls on the **LORD of Mighty Armies** to be her protector!

This is not the first time that Hannah had asked for a child from the Lord, but this time is different.

She has made a vow for her son to be a Nazarite from birth.

She is willing to give to the Lord, not only from her heart, but a step of faith as well committing her son to the Lord.

1 Samuel 1:12-14

And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore, Eli thought she was drunk.

So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

Why would Eli think that she was drunk?

Think about how this must have been, that coming to the Tabernacle, seeing people drunk was "normal".

Yet God is on the throne and working!

God is not surprised by the evil of this world. God always has a plan!

Do you want to be a part of that plan?

1 Samuel 1:15-16

But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

Hannah clears herself from Eli's accusation, but she doesn't respond rudely or harshly. She explains herself, understanding that Eli IS the High Priest, in spite of all the evil that is going on at the Tabernacle.

Acts 23:1-5 Paul's respect for the High Priest after he instructs the soldier to hit Paul.

Exodus 22:28

"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people."

Remember her heart is broken, described in vs 10 as ***bitterness of soul***.

This is exactly what she needed to do and exactly what the Lord wants us to do!

Cry out to Him!

Isaiah 19:20

And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them.

Psalms 34:15

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.

Psalms 107:28

Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses.

We desperately need to cry out to the Lord.

Always!

Maybe you have been like Hannah, for years and years coming to the Lord and asking for something specific. Don't quit! Keep calling on the Lord.

Let your faith build and your strength grow! God loves you and wants to do a work in your life.

1 Samuel 1:17-18

Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Eli may or may not have spoken as from the Lord, but in fact it was a word from God.

John 11:49-52—the High Priest prophesies about Jesus being the sacrifice for the world.

Hannah accepts the word and goes away to eat and she is no longer sad.
God has spoken to her!

Hebrews 6:12
that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Year after year, Hannah has come to the Tabernacle and prayed.
And now she is trusting that the Lord has spoken to her.

We should not struggle with this.
If it is the Lord? God will answer her pray and she will conceive.
If it is not the Lord? She must continue to cry out and trust the Lord in the situation.

1 Samuel 1:19-20

Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

Samuel means -heard of God

From this area of scripture, people have developed a wonderful commitment of their children. "Baby Dedication".

Again, there is no instruction to dedicate your children, so if you do or don't, that is up to you.

We did for each of our kids!

Having our pastor pray for us and our child, committing to our families that we would do our best to honor the Lord in raising our children.

Children are a gift from God!

1 Samuel 1:21-23

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

Think about how Hannah would prepare Samuel in those first 2-3 years of his life.

1 Samuel 1:1-2

Hannah's Story

Elkanah's love for Hannah is expressed by allowing her to keep her vow.
This is a huge step of faith to leave their son to serve at the Tabernacle under Eli.

Numbers 30:10-15- vows of the wife.

1 Samuel 1:24

Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with 3 bulls, 1 ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

- 1 bull-In **Numbers 15:3, 8** the law requires that a burnt offering be given at the completion of a special vow.
- 2 bulls-one was for the High Priest (Eli) and the other for a sin sacrifice (Samuel).
- 1 Ephah of flour-giving what they have.
- Skin of wine-drink offering

Not only did Elkanah bring his family to worship and sacrifice every year, they also sacrificed financially to worship.

1 Samuel 1:26-28

And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Hannah's offering shows a testimony of what God has done in her life and in her family!

We have learned some **practical principles** of life from Elkanah and Hannah.
Their attitudes and responses are an example for us today.

I encourage you to read Hannah's prayer in **1 Samuel 2:1-11**
Compare it to Mary's prayer in **Luke 1:46-55**
You will find some amazing similarities.

Hannah is an awesome example of a woman of faith, longsuffering and perseverance.
And not a bad mom either.

1 Samuel 2:18-21

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

Moreover, his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore 3 sons and 2 daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.