

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim of the mountains
BACKGROUND
- II) Prior to 1 Samuel, Judges led the nation of Israel
This is because when Joshua died, the nation was a loose confederation
There was no king because God was to be their king
- III) At that time Israel needed wisdom and guidance
Judges 17:6 says In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right **in his own eyes**
- IV) After the death of Joshua (1400 BC) Israel was a loose tribal confederation
There was no king, because God was to be Israel's king
Is 43:15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel's Creator, your King.
- V) Because Israel needed care and guidance, God gave the nation judges
This was His loving response to their cries for help during times of oppression
Judges 2:18 Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, He was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them.
- VI) The judges were to be deliverers, call the nation to Mosaic obedience, lead the tribes into battle when necessary, and render legal decisions
- VII) The Book of Judges gives us a list of 12 judges who led the nation
Samuel is the last judge, and the first prophet to lead the nation
- VIII) **Originally**, 1 and 2 Sa were one book but between 300-200 BC were divided into 2
This was because it was translated into Greek, requiring more space on the scrolls
WHO WROTE 1 & 2 SA
- IX) The writer of 1 and 2 Samuel remains anonymous
A portion may have been written by Samuel, but the author is unnamed
TIME
- X) It was written before the death of Samuel in 1015 B.C.
It is estimated he was born around 1105 B.C., serving from 1067 B.C.--1015 B.C.
- XI) The book covers 94 years, from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul

- I) 1 Sa records the transition from the time of the judges to the rule by kings
WHY STUDY THE BOOK
- II) It gives insights into faith, obedience, leadership, and consequences of sin
- III) It is built around the lives of three key men: Samuel, Saul, and David
We have much to learn as we examine each of their lives
- IV) V1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim of the mountains of Ephraim
BASIC INFORMATION
- V) Ramathaim Zophim was an area just 5 miles northwest of Jerusalem
Ramathaim is translated **the heights**, **Zophim** refers to prophets, seers
- VI) This would speak of a place of revelation and vision
This would reveal it as the place God communicated with His people
- VII) Many believe that the area is the same place that was later called Arimathea
Elkanah was from Ephraim, named after one of the 12 sons of Jacob
- VIII) V1 his name was **Elkanah** (the zeal of God) the son of Jeroham the Son of Elihu
1 Chron 6:27 identifies Elkanah as of the Kohathite branch of the tribe of Levi
This made him a member of the Jewish priesthood
Levites did not receive a portion of land, so they lived in various areas of Israel
- IX) V2 He had two wives the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other
Polygamy: Marrying more than one woman has never been a good idea!
The first recorded polygamist was Lamech, from the evil line of Cain (Gen 4:19)
- X) This was not God's intention for mankind, nor is it ever endorsed in scripture
From the beginning God's design was one woman, one man, one lifetime
Gen 2:24 A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh
- XI) Though not endorsed, under the law of Moses, it was permitted (Dt 21:15-17)
Men had more than one wife for various reasons
Their first wife was barren: Here, as well as Gen 16 with Abram and Hagar
The desire for a large family: Judges 8:30 Gideon had 70 sons by his many wives
Political ties alliances: 1 Ki 3, 11:1-3 Solomon had 700 wives, 300 concubines

- I) Under Christianity, it was done away with by the rule that no polygamist could lead
Elders were husbands of one wife, and this rule caused polygamy to cease
- II) Elkanah had two wives, Hannah (Anna, Grace) and Peninnah (Ruby, as in the gem)
Hannah was first wife, and because she was barren, Elkanah married Peninnah
- III) As we shall see, having a divided love produced great problems in the home
Jealousy and rivalry existed between these two women
Jas 3:16 Wherever there is **jealousy** and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind
- IV) V3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD
Ex 23:14-17 required Jewish males to attend three annual feasts yearly:
Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles
- V) This was probably Tabernacles because of the eating mentioned in V9
Tabernacles was celebrated after the ingathering of harvest
- VI) They went to Shiloh where the Tabernacle and the ark of the Covenant were
This was before the Temple was built and was about 20 miles north of Jerusalem
- VII) Hophni (Tadpole) and Phinehas (Nubian) were priests: each had an Egyptian name
Eli was the high priest and may have been too old to perform all of his duties
- VIII) V3 Elkanah went up in order to worship the LORD of hosts
The Lord of hosts (Jehovah Sabaoth) Jehovah of armies, used 260 times in the OT
The word **hosts** can refer to stars, armies, and people
KEY
- IX) This reveals God as the Lord of all creation: He is the creator and sustainer
THOUGHT
- X) The sun, moon, planets, and stars were the highest objects of religious worship to the heathens. The Jewish religion, taught the knowledge of a Being who was the Lord of all these, revealing its superiority to all that heathenism could boast.
- XI) V4-5 Whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering he would give
Elkanah made a thank offering to the Lord, part of which was for him (Lev 17:11)
In the feast he gave to Peninnah and her children, but twice as much to Hannah

- I) V6 And her rival also provoked her severely to make her miserable
Hannah was favored over Peninnah, and this created tension in the home
The only weapon Peninnah had was her fruitfulness: she had many children
She pushed Hannah to rage and tears, ridiculing her for being barren
WHY WOULD THIS MATTER
- II) In Israel, bearing children was a sign of God's blessings
They were the evidence of God's covenant with Israel of land and descendants
They were intended to continue traditions and religion into the future
- III) They were the visible evidence of God's blessings to the continuance of the nation
Ps 127:3 children are a heritage of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.
- IV) For her to be barren was a great disgrace to her and brought deep shame
Elkanah knew this, and as her loving husband **tenderly ministered** to her
- V) V5, 6 The Lord had closed her womb (Like Sarah Gen 16, and Rachel Gen 30)
Although she was barren, Elkanah did not love her less because of it
He knew that she sorrowed over being unable to have a child
- VI) V7 So it was year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord that she
Every year Elkanah would give her open love, and every year Peninnah taunted
TYPICAL RESPONSE
- VII) V8 Elkanah her husband said to her Hannah, why do you weep Why do you not
What is making you so grieved (angry): what's the big deal, am not I enough?
- VIII) As a man, and one who loved her dearly, he could not understand the problem
What man can? We think differently! We need to learn to understand our wives
- IX) Do you think she is pretty? Is she a better cook? Am I fat in this?
HANNAH'S PRAYER
- X) V9-11 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh
His words comforted her to a point, and she partook of the meal with her family
- XI) This reveals to us something about Hannah
She didn't argue with him and present her sorrow to him before others
She heard his words, and as his loving wife partook of the meal
In spite of her pain, she heard what he had to say

- I) V10 And she was in bitterness of soul and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish
Though she listened to her husband, she still had the ache in her heart
- II) Instead of creating more tension, she went into prayer and poured out her heart
Job 7:11 I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will
complain in the bitterness of my soul
Jas 5:16 The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much
- III) V11 Then **she made a vow** and said O Lord of hosts if You will indeed look
This is a solemn promise to God that she is obligated to fulfill
Nu 30:10-11 If a woman living with her husband makes a vow or obligates herself
by a pledge under oath and her husband hears about it but says nothing to her and does
not forbid her, then all her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand
- IV) Three times she refers to herself as God's maidservant, revealing humility
Her prayer was really her desire to bring God glory, through her son
She didn't simply want a child, she wanted a child that would glorify God
- V) It wasn't simply a selfish prayer, but a prayer designed to bring honor to God
She asked God **for a son** so he could serve God in a greater way
I am not simply asking for revenge on my adversary, I desire glory to go to You
- VI) V11 I will dedicate my son to you all the days of his life
She weeps in anguish as she makes her petition to the Lord
Ps 27:7 Hear O Lord when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me and answer me
- VII) V11 no razor shall come upon his head: He will be a Nazirite, dedicated to service
Nu 6:2-5 Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: `When either a man or
woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the
LORD, he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither
vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any
grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins. All the days of his separation he shall eat
nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin. All the days of the vow of
his separation no razor shall come upon his head; until the days are fulfilled for which
he separated himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. Then he shall let the locks of the
hair of his head grow.

- I) V12-14 And it happened as she continued praying before the Lord that Eli watched
Eli the High Priest saw her praying and misunderstood, so he rebukes her
- II) V14 So Eli said to her How long will you be drunk Put your wine away from you
This is another way of calling her a habitual abuser of alcohol
He saw her intense prayer and animation and thought she was intoxicated
- III) V14 Put your wine away from you
Being drunk was never a way to approach the Lord! Repent!
Craving alcohol is not wise: it clouds judgment and reveals character weakness
PRACTICAL APPLICATION
- IV) Christians are not to yield to this kind of control over them
Just because it is **legal** does not make it **morally** or **spiritually wise** to do so
QUOTE
- V) No one starts out to be an alcoholic. Everyone begins with a defensive attitude saying, 'I'm just a social drinker and there is nothing wrong with it!' No one says, 'It is my ambition that someday I want to lose my job, my health, my self-respect, my marriage and my family. Someday I want to be dependent on alcohol to get through my day.' yet, this is the destination at which several millions of people have arrived. Why do you suppose that is? It is because alcohol is promoted and elevated as a normal/sophisticated activity in life.... It is also expensive, addictive and enslaving. (The sad fact is): people get hooked by America's **number one legal drug**
Pr 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it **is not wise**
ELI WAS WRONG
- VI) V15 Hannah answered and said **No my lord**, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit
Immediately she makes her defense: I am pouring my heart out to the Lord
- VII) V16 Do not consider your maidservant **a wicked woman** for out of the abundance
A daughter of belial: worthless, lawless
I did not enter this holy place to profane it: I came to pour out my heart!
- VIII) V17 Then Eli answered and said Go in peace and the God of Israel grant your
God will answer your petition (It was within His will for her to do so)
Lu 11:9-10 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- I) V18 She said Let your maidservant find favor in your sight. So the woman went
She was so comforted to hear this that she went to the feast, and enjoyed herself
- II) V19-20 They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD
Hannah went home, comforted and convinced that God would answer her prayer
She returned to worship, not just in presence, but in heart as joy flooded her soul
- III) Over the process of time she conceived and gave birth to her son
His name speaks of the fact that she prayed, and God heard (heard of God)
Ps 3:4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And **He heard me** from His holy hill.
Ps 116:1-2 I love the LORD, because **He has heard** My voice and my
supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as
long as I live.
- IV) V21-23 The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly
Elkanah went to the yearly sacrifice, bringing tithes and offerings (Dt 12:17-18)
- V) Included was a vow offering, thanking God for answering (Lev 7:16)
- VI) V22-23 But Hannah did not go up for she said to her husband I will not go up until
Weaning took 2-3 years, and Hannah was allowed to have her baby for this time
- VII) She knew that he would be given to the Lord, and would remain in the Tabernacle
She understood his serving the Lord was the greatest calling he could ever have
She was excited to release him into God's service, as was his father
- VIII) V23 Only let the Lord establish His word
There is no specific revelation given concerning Samuel
Still, they know that God is going to do wonderful things
- IX) V24-28 When she had weaned him she took him up with her with three bulls one e
She brings the required vow offering, but in greater measure (Nu15:8-10)
As they give their offering, she explains her circumstances to Eli
- X) I have given back what was asked for: as long as he lives he is asked for Jehovah\
I asked for a child to dedicate to Him, and have given him for His service
Instead of becoming inconsolable, she worships God because he belongs to Him

- I) This is what it means when we truly dedicate our kids to Him
We yield our children to His service, wherever and however it takes them
- II) She desired a son to worship God all the days of his life
God had deeper plans for her special son
God blessed Samuel: He made him prophet and a judge of Israel
ONE LAST THING
- III) In Jan of '09 we began for a season a prayer ministry called Hannah's Hope
One of the young ladies who took part in the time of prayer gave birth to 2 kids