

- I) **V1-2 INTRO:** Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim of the mountains of Ephraim
 - a) **BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1 Samuel, Judges led the nation of Israel
 - 1) Samuel is the last judge, and the first prophet to lead the nation
 - 2) Originally, 1 and 2 Samuel were simply one book but have now been divided into 2 books
- II) **AUTHOR:** The writer of 1 and 2 Samuel remains anonymous
 - a) A portion may have been written by Samuel, but the author is actually unnamed
- III) **TIME:** It was written before the death of Samuel in 1015 B.C.
 - a) It is estimated that he was born around 1105 B.C., and ministered from 1067 B.C. until 1015 B.C.
 - 1) The book covers 94 years, from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul
- IV) **KEY:** 1 Samuel records the transition from the time of the *judges* to the rule by *kings*
 - a) It is built around the lives of three key men: Samuel, Saul, and David
 - 1) We have much to learn as we examine each of their lives
- V) **V1 NOW:** There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim of the mountains of Ephraim
 - a) **SETTING:** Elkanah was from an area called Ephraim, named after one of the 12 sons of Jacob
 - 1) Ramathaim Zophim was an area just 5 miles north west of the city of Jerusalem
 - 2) **SCHOLARS:** Believe that the area is the same place that was later called Arimathea
- VI) **KEY:** 1 Chron 6:27 identifies Elkanah as a member of the Kohathite branch of the tribe of Levi
 - a) This made him a member of the Jewish priesthood
 - 1) Levites did not receive a portion of land, so they would live in various areas of Israel
- VII) **V2 AND:** He had two wives the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah
 - a) **POLYGAMY:** Marrying more than one woman has never been a good idea!
 - 1) The first recorded polygamist was Lamech, from the ungodly line of Cain (Gen 4:19)
- VIII) **POLYGAMY:** Was not God's intention for mankind, nor is it ever endorsed
 - a) God's design was one woman, one man, one lifetime
 - 1) Gen 2:24 A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh
- IX) **THOUGH NOT ENDORSED:** Under the law of Moses, it was permitted (Dt 21:15-17)
 - a) Men had more than one wife for various reasons
 - 1) Their first wife was barren: Here, as well as Gen 16 with Abram and Hagar
 - 2) The desire for a large family: Judges 8:30 Gideon had 70 sons through his many wives
 - 3) Political ties with other kings: 1 Ki 3, 11:1-3 Solomon had 700 wives, 300 concubines
- X) **KEY:** Under Christianity, it was done away with by the rule that no polygamist could lead
 - a) Elders were to be the husbands of one wife, and this rule ultimately caused polygamy to cease
- XI) **ELKANAH:** Had two wives, Hannah (Anna, Grace) and Peninnah (Ruby, as in the gem)
 - a) Hannah was probably the first wife, and because she was barren, Elkanah married Peninnah
 - 1) As we shall see, having a divided love produced great problems in the home
 - 2) Jealousy and rivalry existed between these two women
- I) **V3 THIS MAN:** Went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts

a) Jewish males were required to attend three annual feasts yearly: Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles

1) This was probably Tabernacles because of the eating mentioned in V9

II) THEY WENT TO SHILOH: Which is where the Tabernacle and the ark of the Covenant were

a) This was about 20 miles north of Jerusalem

1) Hophni (Tadpole) and Phinehas (Nubian) were priests: each had an Egyptian name

III) V3 ELKANAH: Went up in order to worship the *LORD of hosts*

a) He is called the LORD of hosts (Jehovah Sabaoth) Jehovah of armies, used 260 times in the OT

1) Hosts can refer to stars, armies, and people

IV) KEY: This is a way of referring to God as the Lord of all creation, as He is the creator and sustainer

a) 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.

V) V4-7 AND: Whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering he would give portions to

a) Hannah was favored over Peninnah, and this obvious favoritism created tension in the home

1) The only weapon Peninnah had was her fruitfulness: she had many children

2) She would needle Hannah to rage and tears, ridiculing her and taunting her for being barren

VI) REMEMBER: In Israel, *bearing children* was an indication of *God's blessings*

a) Ps 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

1) For her to be barren was a great disgrace to her and brought deep shame

2) V6 KEY: The Lord had closed her womb (Like Sarah Gen 16, and Rachel Gen 30)

VII) V8 TYPICAL RESPONSE: Elkanah her husband said to her Hannah, why do you weep

a) What is making you so grieved (angry): what's the big deal, anyway? Am not I enough?

1) As a man, and one who loved her dearly, he just could not understand the problem

2) What man can? We think differently! We need to learn to understand our wives better!

3) Do you think she is pretty? Is she a better cook? Am I fat in this?

VIII) V9-11 HANNAH'S PRAYER: I will dedicate my son to you all the days of his life

a) With *humility* and *submission*, she begs God to remember her and answer her prayer

1) V10 She weeps in anguish as she makes her petition to the Lord

2) Ps 27:7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

IX) SHE MAKES A VOW TO THE LORD: He will be a Nazirite

a) He will be completely dedicated to the service of the Lord: devoted to service, and holiness

1) Num 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.

l) V12-16 AND: It happened as she continued praying before the Lord that *Eli watched her mouth*

- a) Eli was the High Priest, and he saw her praying and misunderstood, so he rebukes her
1) **FACT:** As we shall see, Eli's sons were corrupt and God deals with him and them (2:12)
- II) **V15-16 AND HANNAH:** Answered and said No my lord, I am a woman of *sorrowful spirit*
a) Immediately she makes her defense: I am pouring my heart out to the Lord
1) V17 God will answer your petition (It was within His will for her to do so)
2) Ps 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."
3) 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.
- III) **V18 THE RESPONSE:** She said Let your maidservant find favor in your sight. So the woman went
a) She was so comforted to hear this that she went to the feast, and enjoyed herself
1) Considering a new prayer ministry for barren wives: Hannah's Hope
- IV) **V19-20 THEN:** They rose early in the morning and *worshipped before the LORD*, and returned
a) Hannah went home, fully comforted and convinced that God would answer her prayer
1) She returned to worship, not just in presence, but in heart as joy flooded her soul
- V) **OVER THE PROCESS OF TIME:** She conceived and gave birth to her son
a) His name speaks of the fact that she prayed, and God heard (heard of God)
1) Ps 3:4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.
2) 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.
- VI) **V21-23 AND:** The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice
a) Elkanah went to the yearly sacrifice, bringing his tithes and offerings (Dt 12:17-18)
1) He included an offering of thanks called a vow offering, thanking God for answering (Lev 7:16)
- VII) **V22-23 BUT HANNAH:** Did not go up for she said to her husband I will not go up until the child
a) Weaning would normally take 2-3 years, and Hannah was allowed to have her baby for this time
1) She knew that he would be given to the Lord, and would remain in the Tabernacle
2) She understood that his serving the Lord was the greatest calling he could ever have
3) She was excited to *release him* into God's service, as was his father
- VIII) **V24-28 NOW:** When she had weaned him she took him up with her with three bulls one ephah
a) She brings what is required in a vow offering, but in greater measure (Nu15:8-10)
1) As they give their offering, she explains her circumstances as she hands him over to Eli
2) **KEY:** I have given back *what was asked* for Jehovah; as long as he lives he is asked *for* Jehovah
- IX) **POINT:** I asked for a child to dedicate to Him, and have given him to the Lord for His service
a) Instead of becoming inconsolable, she worships God because Samuel belonged to God
1) This is what it means to truly dedicate our kids to Him