

## 1 Samuel 2

### Contrasting World Views: Eternal vs. Temporal

#### Review Chapter 1:

- Elkanah had two wives; Peninnah and Hannah
- Peninnah had children; Hannah had none
- Peninnah ridiculed Hannah and Hannah sought the Lord
- Hannah vowed that if God would give her a male child, she would dedicate him to the Lord
- As Hannah prayed, Eli falsely accused her of being drunk
- Hannah continued to trust in the Lord and humbled herself before Eli
- Eli prophesied children for Hannah and she Hannah believed
- God honored Hannah's faith and she bore a son, Samuel
- Hannah kept her vow and brought Samuel to live with the priests as a Nazarite. (Integrity)

**Summary:** God delighted in Hannah and gave her the desire of her heart. Hannah delighted in the Lord and kept her vow

- **Chapter 2** reveals two contrasting world views
  1. **Hannah:** Her life is characterized by faith, dedication, strength and integrity, and...
  2. **Ely and his sons:** Their life is a picture of weakness, sensuality and eventual destruction.

#### Hannah's Song

1Then Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; My **horn** is exalted in the LORD, **My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies**, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

- **Horn:** Strength

**Numbers 24:8** "God brings him out of Egypt,  
 He is for him like the **horns of the wild ox**  
 He will devour the nations who are his adversaries,  
 And will crush their bones in pieces,  
 And shatter them with his arrows.

- Hannah was ridiculed and misunderstood
- She found strength in the Lord and understood the principle found in:

**Romans 12:19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but **leave room for the wrath of God**, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, **I WILL REPAY**," **says the Lord.**

- Hanna left room for God to work. She got out of the way
- It was God who vindicated Hannah and glorified himself as the Righteous Judge...in front of her enemy

**Psalms 23:4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me **in the presence of my enemies;**

- Peninnah saw God's favor towards Hannah
- If we allow God to fight our battles we will see victory
- We are in a battle

**Ephesians 6: 10** (Read) Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and in the **strength of His might**. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Hannah understood that the battle was spiritual
- She did not retaliate, but left room for God to work

(Back to) **Samuel 2:2** "There **is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You**, nor is there any rock like our God. 3 "Boast no more so very proudly, do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the **LORD is a God of knowledge**, And with Him actions are weighed. 4 "The bows of the mighty are shattered, but the feeble gird on strength.

- The true God challenges all other so-called gods

**Isaiah 44:6** (Read) "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And **there is no God besides Me. 7 who is like Me?** Let him proclaim and declare it; yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the **events that are going to take place.**

- **Fulfilled prophecy** declares the God of the bible to be God
- **All** prophecies of Jesus have been fulfilled except 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- **Because** prophecy I fulfilled we should trust the Word of God
- **The Word** says Jesus is the only way to escape destruction

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the **way**, and the **truth**, and the **life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**

**Philippians 2:10** ...at the name of Jesus **EVERY KNEE WILL BOW**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- There is *no other* God and no other means of salvation!
- Hannah understands that it is humility that brings blessing and that pride comes before a fall

(Back to **Samuel 2:5**) "Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry cease to hunger. Even the barren gives birth to seven, but she who has many children languishes. 6"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. 7"The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. 8"He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He set the world on them. 9"He keeps the feet of His godly ones, but the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; for not by might shall a man prevail. 10"Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; **And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed.**"

- Hannah prophesies a King
- Fulfilled in David and eventually Jesus, the King of Kings

11Then Elkanah went to his home at Ramah. But **the boy ministered to the LORD** before Eli the priest.

- Samuel stayed...he was 3 years old

**Eli's Sons:** Hophni and Phinehas

**Meaning:** Tadpole and Darkness

- Not quite a frog
- Spiritual darkness

12Now the sons of Eli were **worthless men**;

**2 Timothy 2:20** (Read) Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and **some to honor and some to dishonor**. 21Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22Now flee from youthful lusts and **pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace**, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

- Eli's sons were vessels of dishonor (toilets)
- They did not flee from youthful lusts
- We are to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace with others who also believe (want to be a Joseph or a Daniel, or a Hannah?)
- We are to be vessels of honor filled with God's Spirit

12b **they did not know the LORD** 13and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man was offering a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand. 14Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest meat for roasting, as he will not take boiled meat from you, only raw." 16If the

man said to him, "They must surely burn the fat first, and then take as much as you desire," then he would say, "No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force." 17Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD.

- They worked in a place of worship yet did not know God

**2 Timothy 3:4** ...treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 **holding to a form of godliness**, although they have **denied its power**; Avoid such men as these. 6For among them are those who enter into households and **captivate weak women weighed down with sins**, led on by various impulses...

- They went through the motions and enjoyed the benefits of their priestly position, but had no fear of God, taking advantage of worshipers
- Contrasted with Hannah's faith, these guys were *earthen vessels* and it gets worse! They would take advantage of "weak willed women"
- In the mean time Hannah is being blessed abundantly by the Lord

## Young Samuel

18Now Samuel was ministering before the LORD, as a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19And his **mother would make him a little robe** and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the LORD give you children from this woman in place of the one she dedicated to the LORD." And they went to their own home. 21**The LORD visited Hannah**; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters And the boy Samuel grew before the LORD.

- Though Samuel was a Nazarite, Hannah was still mom
- Hannah was visited by the Lord. He delighted in her
- The Lord would visit Eli's sons ...in a very different way

## Eli and his sons

22Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to

all Israel, and how they **lay with the women** who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

- Remember 2 Timothy: [These religious make-believers]...captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses...
- They were around "God Stuff" and god's people, but had no relationship with Him and no power to overcome sin

**Colossians 2:23** [These false religious practices give] the **appearance of wisdom in self-made religion** and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of **no value against fleshly indulgence.**

- Religion without God the Holy Spirit is of no value in restraining sensuality
- Sensuality...if it feels good do it

**Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, **sensuality**, 20idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- The boys were deceiving themselves as do so many
- 80 % of America declares themselves to be Christian
- Is 80% of America bowing before and serving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master?
- Is 80% of America loving the Lord with all of their heart, mind, soul, and strength and dying to themselves?
- How many are playing church.
- The consequences are eternal!

23He [Ely] said to them, "Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people? 24"**No, my sons; for the report is not good** which I hear the LORD'S people circulating. 25"If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins

against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, **for the LORD desired to put them to death.**

- Ely is a weak father ..."**No, my sons;**
- Ely is a bad example as we will see (desecrating the sacrifice with his sons)
- It takes courage to be a Christian and extreme courage to be a Christian parent
- Ely's poor example would negatively influence Samuel
- God was finished with Ely's sons. He will not strive with man forever.
- Pharaoh hardened his heart many times before the Lord allowed him to go his own way.

**2 Corinthians 6:2** "Behold, **now** is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, **now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—**

**Revelation 22: 11**"Let the one who does wrong, **still do wrong**; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

- Jesus is the door
- A door both opens and shuts

26Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in **favor both with the LORD and with men.**

- What was it about Samuel that found favor with God and man?

**Proverbs 3:3** (Read)

Do not let **kindness and truth** leave you;  
Bind them around your neck,  
Write them on the tablet of your heart.

4So you will **find favor and good repute**  
**In the sight of God and man.**

5Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.

**Ephesians 4:14** (Read)...we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15but speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him

who is the head, even Christ,

- Truth *must* be mixed with love for the person
- No more do I “just tell people the way it is”
- Samuel had favor with God and man

27Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, '**Did I not indeed reveal** Myself to the house of your father **when they were in Egypt in bondage** to Pharaoh's house?"

- Don't you remember where you came from?

28'**Did I not choose** them from all the tribes of Israel to be My priests, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, to carry an ephod before Me; and did I not give to the house of your father all the fire offerings of the sons of Israel?

- Don't you understand the privilege of representing me to the people?

29 'Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?'

- Ahhh! There it is. Ely was in on it...then he tried to reprimand his sons after he compromised... with them?
- Compromise always leads to consequence...always!

30"Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the LORD declares, 'Far be it from Me--for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed. 31'Behold, the days are coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your father's house so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32'You will see the distress of My dwelling, in spite of all the good that I do for Israel; and an old man will not be in your house forever. 33'**Yet I will not cut off every man** of yours from My altar so that your eyes will fail from weeping and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life. 34'This will be the sign to you which will come concerning your two sons, **Hophni and Phinehas: on the same day both of them will die.**



- Consequence: Both Ely's sons will die
- God always leaves a ray of hope for those who trust Him

**35'But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest** who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always.

36'Everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and say, "Please assign me to one of the priest's offices so that I may eat a piece of bread.'"

- Possibly Zadok: Priest during the reign of David and Solomon
- Possibly Samuel

## CONCLUSION:

**Two world views:** Eternal vs. temporal or Spiritual vs. Fleshly

1. **Life** leading to prosperity now and heaven later and...
2. **Death** leading to adversity now and hell later

**Deuteronomy 30:15** (Read) "See, I have set before you today **life and prosperity, and death and adversity**; 16in that I command you today to **love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live** and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17"But **if your heart turns away and you will not obey**, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18I declare to you today that **you shall surely perish**. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life in order that you may live**, you and your descendants, 20 **by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him**; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

**So choose life in order that you may live, now and forever**