

# I Samuel Chapter 1: Dedication through Adversity

## Introduction to I Samuel

- **Title:** Named after Samuel, last judge of Israel, prophet and priest of God
- **Prophet:** Forth tell and foretell
  1. Forth tell: to speak the Word of God *concerning the present*
  2. Fore tell: to speak the Word of God *concerning the future*
- **Originally** I and II Samuel were one book; The Book of Samuel
- **In 150 B.C.**
  1. Hebrew was translated to Greek
  2. The Book of Samuel and the Book of Kings were brought together into one book and divided into four sections (first, second, third and forth kingdoms)
  3. This was the complete history of Hebrew kings
  4. Samuel and Kings were later separated, but the divisions of each remained, leaving us: 1 and II Samuel and I and II Kings
- **Author:** Possibly Samuel for the first part (chs.1-24). The prophet Nathan and/or the Seer Gad may have finished the book after Samuel's death.
- **Date** of the Final Two Volume book: Possibly around the time of Solomon's death in 930 B.C.
- **Historical Background:** Israel desires a King they can see and touch as other nations have. Though Samuel warns them of the dangers of having a king who is prone to sin, they refuse to listen and reap the consequences.

**I Samuel 8:7** The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected Me** from being king over them.

## Central Figures

**Samuel:** The last **Judge** of Israel introducing the “Time of the Kings”

**Judge:** Defined

**Judges 2:15** (Read) Wherever they [Israelites] went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. **16Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.** 17Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as their fathers. 18When the LORD raised up judges for them, **the LORD was with the judge** and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was **moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.** 19But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways.

- The Lord was “with the Judge”
- Rebellion against the judge was rebellion against God
- God was moved to pity because of their affliction

**Saul:** The first king of Israel whose life ended in self-destruction

**David:** the second King of Israel and a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ (though not a perfect picture, David was a “man after God’s own heart)

**Eli and his sons:** Corrupt and weak priesthood. A weak father.

### Setting the Scene

- Israel at a low point in their relationship with God
- A company or organization is only as good as its leaders
- Israel’s spiritual leaders, the priests, were corrupt and vile
- Rituals continued

## **I Samuel**

1Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the (Bhill

country 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. 2He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, **but Hannah had no children.**

- **Psalm 127: 3** Behold, children are a **gift** of the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.  
4Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So are the children of one's youth.  
5How **blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;**  
They will not be ashamed  
When they speak with their enemies in the gate.
- **Children:** are a **gift of the LORD**
- Today children are discarded as rubbish (abortion, TV babysitter, parents as friends, not mentors)
- Products of *uncommitted* relationships leading to *little commitment* in raising children
- Children are *routinely* verbally, physically and sexually used and abused. (Better to tie a rock...)
- Example: Mother using children to get disability

3Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to **sacrifice** to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. 3b And the two sons of Eli, **Hophni and Phinehas**, were priests to the LORD there.

### Sacrifice: Why?

People would bring a sacrifice for their sins (unspotted animal), and then have a big meal (BBQ) signifying companionship and friendship with God. An intimate time with the Lord. God digs hanging out and eating with us.

- Last Supper: The last meal before suffering
- On the beach after the resurrection: Breakfast
- Millennium mountain: Choice meats
- In heaven: The wedding feast of the Lamb

*But bulls and goats could **never** take away our sin and bridge the separation between God and man. (as seen in both the Old and New Testament)*

**Psalm 50:11** "I know every bird of the mountains,  
And everything that moves in the field is Mine.  
12"If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
For the world is Mine, and all it contains.

**13"Shall I eat the flesh of bulls  
Or drink the blood of male goats?"**

**Hebrews 9: 11** (Read) But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; <sup>12</sup>and **not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood**, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

**Only the blood of Jesus can take away our sin. Old Testament saints looked forward as we look back to Jesus sacrifice. (BC/AD)**

(Back to) **Samuel 1:4** When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; <sup>5</sup>but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup>Her rival, however, would **provoke** her bitterly to **irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb**. <sup>7</sup>It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she **wept and would not eat**.

- Was Peninnah was there to worship in "Spirit and Truth"?
- Words hurt

**James 3: 8** But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; <sup>10</sup>from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

- Do we go to "worship" and do evil? (mock, criticize, judge, gossip)
- **Coward:** Someone who kicks you while your down
- This was Peninnah. Hannah already felt bad...an easy target.
- Do you pick on easy targets or are you the easy target getting picked on?

**Provoked? Picked on? Jesus understands!**

**Hebrews 4:15** (Read) **For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but One who has been **tempted in all things** as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Therefore let us

draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Luke 23:34** (Read) But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing " And they **cast lots, dividing up His garments** among themselves. 35And the people stood by, looking on. And **even the rulers were sneering at Him**, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." 36The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, 37and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" 38Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." 39One of the criminals who were hanged there **was hurling abuse at Him...**

**I Peter 5: 6** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7casting all your anxiety [cares] on Him, because He cares for you.

- God does care when people abuse us!

**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.**

**Psalms 18: 1** (Read) For the choir director. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said,

"I love You, O LORD, my strength."

2The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

3I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
And I am saved from my enemies.

4The cords of death encompassed me,  
And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.

5The cords of Sheol surrounded me;  
The snares of death confronted me.

6In my distress I called upon the LORD,  
And cried to my God for help;  
He heard my voice out of His temple,  
And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.

7Then the earth shook and quaked;  
And the foundations of the mountains were trembling  
And were shaken, because He was angry.

8Smoke went up out of His nostrils,  
And fire from His mouth devoured;  
Coals were kindled by it.

9He bowed the heavens also, and came down  
With thick darkness under His feet.

10 He rode upon a cherub and flew;  
And He sped upon the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him,  
Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.

12 From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds,  
Hailstones and coals of fire.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens,  
And the Most High uttered His voice,  
Hailstones and coals of fire.

14 He sent out His arrows, and scattered them,  
And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.

15 Then the channels of water appeared,  
And the foundations of the world were laid bare  
At Your rebuke, O LORD,  
At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

16 He sent from on high, He took me;  
He drew me out of many waters.

17 **He delivered me** from my strong enemy,  
And from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity,  
But the LORD was my stay.

19 He brought me forth also into a broad place;  
**He rescued me, because He delighted in me.**

- Moral: Don't mess with God's kids...He delights in us!
- Bernie's poetic justice

8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? **Am I not better** to you than ten sons?"

- **Misplaced Comfort:** Elkahah did not know what to say. *He did not understand her grief. Example:*

1. **Funerals:** It is best not to talk but to listen and say what God wants you to say...if anything.
2. **We generally don't understand** what people are going through. (Being picked on at school for being different, not being able to have a child, or a baby dying suddenly)  
Example: Rick
3. **Listen for God's voice** before spouting off.

**James 1: 19** ...everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak...

4. Elkanah at least got Hannah to eat

9 Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the

LORD. 10She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 11She 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 son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, **and a razor shall never come on his head.**"

### Nazarite Vow

- Not to cut hair
- Not to touch dead things
- No wine, grapes or raisins (no compromise)
- Normally a limited time and chosen voluntarily. Not in Samuels case! Hanna's son would never cut his hair, touch a dead thing, or consume a grape product!
- The Lord would not forget Hanna

12Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. 13As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. 14Then Eli said to her, "**How long will you make yourself drunk?** Put away your wine from you." 15But Hannah replied, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16"**Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman**, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation."

- **Misunderstanding** (Parents, friends, those you would have hoped would know you more...friends, family, a religious leader)
  1. Art teacher: Talented actor, Freddie Prince
  2. Dad: Burger King
  3. Being misunderstood leaves you with a choice: Submit to God or rebel. I rebelled and paid the price. Hanna submitted to God and was rewarded.
- After removing his foot from his mouth...

17Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and **may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.**" 18She said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight" So the woman went her way and ate, and **her face was no longer sad.**

- Though Eli was a weak priest, he was still God's priest and God

- spoke through him.
- Hanna trusted God as she took Eli's words to heart

19Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and **the LORD remembered her.**

20It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she **named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the LORD."**

- **Samuel:** Means "**heard of God**"
- The Lord heard and remembered Hanna and had pity (Mercy)
- God remembers everything about us *except on thing*. God even remembers every time we speak about Him to someone!

**Malachi 3:16** (Read) Then those who feared the LORD **spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written** before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

- The only thing God does not remember is our sin (if we know Him)

### **Isaiah 43:25**

"I, even I, am the one who **wipes out** your transgressions for My own sake, **And I will not remember your sins.**

### **Dedication of Samuel**

21Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow. 22But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "I will not go up until the child is weaned; then **I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever.**"

- **Integrity:** Doing what you say you are going to do. **Period!**

23 Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you Remain until you have weaned him; only may the LORD confirm His word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. 24Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, **although the child was young.**



- Hanna trusted that God would take care of young Samuel even though the environment was evil
- She had prepared him for three years

25Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli. 26She said, "Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD. 27"**For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. 28"So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD** "And he worshiped the LORD there.

- Hanna kept her vow and loved because she was loved
- When we are close to God He will give us the desires of our heart because they will be the same as His. We will be one.

**John 17: 18** "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19"For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. 20"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, **but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.**

- David was a "man after God's own heart"
- Remember Psalm 18 when the Lord delighted in His child
- Our response is to delight in the Lord

#### **Psalm 37:4**

**Delight yourself in the LORD;**  
And **He will** give you the desires of your heart.

- The **Lord delighted in Hanna** and gave her her hearts desire, a son
- **Hanna responded by delighting in the Lord** and gave her son back to the Him
- This love relationship resulted in Samuel becoming a great man of God.

- We love ...because He first loved us.
- Our motivation is love, not fear.

**Isaiah 50:7** For the Lord GOD helps Me,  
Therefore, I am not disgraced;  
Therefore, I have set My face like flint,  
And I know that I will not be ashamed.  
8He who vindicates Me is near;  
Who will contend with Me?

**He delights in us!**