

Samuel (Rise of the King) - Lesson 2

Sovereign God in Personal Suffering (1 Samuel 1:1-20)

BIG IDEA

God is often doing His **(1)** _____ work in our lives during the seasons when it seems like nothing is happening.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:19–20, Romans 8:28

I. GOD'S WORK BEGINS IN ORDINARY PLACES (1 Samuel 1:1–2)

a) Setting – Israel in Spiritual Decline

- End of the period of the Judges
- Spiritual leadership is weak
- God's people are drifting
- God is already preparing something new

Scripture: Judges 21:25, 1 Samuel 3:1

b) PEOPLE

▪ Elkanah

- Name meaning: "God has created a son."
- Faithful Israelite who regularly traveled to worship at Shiloh
- Only commoner in Samuel and Kings having more than **(2)** _____ wife
- Polygamy was culturally tolerated, but not God's design

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1–2, Genesis 2:24

▪ Hannah

- Name meaning: "Grace."
- Elkanah's favored wife
- Childless — a source of deep grief and social shame
- Loved by Elkanah despite her barrenness

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:2, 5

▪ Peninnah

- Name meaning: "Ruby" or "Jewel."
- Hannah's rival in the household
- "Rival" of Hannah (One who causes distress) = **(3)** _____
- Provided children for Elkanah

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:6–7

c) GOD'S PLAN

- Verse 5 – "the Lord had kept her from conceiving."
- Hannah's suffering was not random
- God's providence often works through painful circumstances

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:5

d) ELI

- Priest at Shiloh
- Judge of Israel during this period
- Descendant of Aaron through Ithamar
- Oversaw worship at the Tabernacle

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:9

II. PROVIDENCE CAN LEAD TO PAIN (1 Samuel 1:3–8)

a) Worship at Shiloh

- (4) _____ required pilgrimage festivals per year
- Israelites traveled to worship the Lord
- Shiloh housed the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:3, Deuteronomy 16:16

b) Hannah's Long Trial

- "Year after year" Elkanah traveled to Shiloh
- Hannah experienced:
- Emotional pain
- Social humiliation
- Family tension

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:7

c) PRIESTS

- Eli's Sons
 - 1) Hophni
 - "Pugilist" — hand-to-hand (5) _____
 - Possibly reflects strength or aggression
 - 2) Phinehas
 - Name meaning "mouth of brass."

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:3

d) LORD OF HOSTS

- NIV translation: Lord (6) _____
- First appearance of this title in the Old Testament
- Refers to God ruling over heavenly and earthly armies
- Emphasizes God's sovereignty

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:11

e) FESTIVALS

- National celebrations of God's provision
- Time of rejoicing and gratitude
- Celebration of a bountiful (7) _____

Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:13–15

f) FAMILY CONFLICT

- Hannah's barrenness may have led to Elkanah marrying Peninnah
- Rival (8) _____ Hannah
- Her goal was to provoke and irritate
- The attacks continued year after year

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:6–7

g) ELKANAH'S ATTEMPT TO COMFORT

- Elkanah loved Hannah deeply
- Asked: "Why are you troubled?"
- Hebrew idea suggests a heart that is (9) _____
- Even sincere comfort cannot heal every wound

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:8

III. RESPONSE TO SUFFERING – PRAYER (1 Samuel 1:9–11)

- Hannah went to the house of the Lord
- Bitterness replaced with (10) _____
- Honest, emotional, desperate prayer

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:9–10

a) HANNAH'S VOW

- Hannah made a vow to God
- Asked for a son
- Promised to dedicate him to the Lord
- Vow of (11) _____ to the Lord

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:11

b) NAZIRITE VOW

- (12) _____ vow not explicit
- Verse 11 strongly implies Nazirite dedication
- The Nazirite vow included:
 - 1) No wine or grapes
 - 2) No cutting hair
 - 3) Avoiding contact with the dead

Scripture: Numbers 6:1–8

- Rarely taken for life
- Usually voluntary
- Parallels – (13) _____

Scripture: Judges 13:5

c) HANNAH'S CRY

- "Take notice of your servant's affliction."
- "Remember and not forget me."
- Faith is not (14) _____ pain from God

- Faith is bringing pain to God
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:10–11

IV. GOD'S GIFT

- Children are a (15) _____ from God
- Hannah promised to give her son back to the Lord
Scripture: Ruth 4:13, Exodus 22:29

V. HANNAH'S PRAYER (1 Samuel 1:12–13)

- Hannah prayed in the presence of the Lord
- Her lips moved, but her voice was not heard
- Praying in (16) _____
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:12–13

a) ELI'S CONFUSION

- Eli saw her lips moving
- Did not hear her voice
- Prayer was normally (17) _____
- Eli assumed she was drunk
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:13–14

b) ELI'S BLESSING

- Eli reassures Hannah
- "Go in (18) _____."
- Eli asks God to grant her request
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:17

VI. HANNAH'S FAITH

- Hannah leaves encouraged
- Her heart changed before her circumstances did
- God acted according to His (19) _____
- Samuel is born
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:18–20

ANSWER KEY

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|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. GREATEST | 10. PRAYER | 19. PROMISE |
| 2. ONE | 11. SEPERATION | |
| 3. TENSION | 12. NAZARITE | |
| 4. THREE | 13. SAMSON | |
| 5. FIGHTER | 14. HIDING | |
| 6. ALMIGHTY | 15. GIFT | |
| 7. HARVEST | 16. SILENCE | |
| 8. TAUNTED | 17. AUDIBLE | |
| 9. RESENTFUL | 18. PEACE | |