

The Kingship of God: How Every Government Works For Our Good

Hannah's Son

1 Samuel 1:1–2:10

Sunday Evening Bible Study – September 11, 2016

1. The Old Testament records how God, the eternal and universal King (Ex. 15:18; Ps. 96:10), governs the nation of Israel through four forms of government:

The Patriarchs (Genesis)	The Prophet Moses (Exodus–Joshua)	The Judges (Judges–Ruth)	The Kings (1 Samuel–Malachi)
God raises up and calls the fathers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons, to rule over their households. An age marked by sibling rivalry and treachery. Gen. 37:3f	God raises up the greatest Old Testament prophet Moses, and his successor, Joshua, to shepherd his people out of Egypt and into Israel. An age marked by strong but flawed leadership and whiny, impatient people. Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:3	God raises up temporary, local leaders to unite the tribes to address crisis situations as they arise. An age marked by national division, moral confusion, and cycles of God's discipline. Judges 21:25	God raises up a dynasty of kings who maintain a strong central government but with a specific separation of powers (prophets, priests, kings). An age marked by cycles of revival, secure borders, prosperity, pride, syncretism, moral decline, invasion and God's discipline.

2. 1 and 2 Samuel record the chaotic transitional period between Judges and Kings, beginning in 1100 B.C. Samuel is the last of the Judges and the first of the Prophets.
3. Hannah's Semi-Prominent Husband: Elkanah (1:1–5)
 - 3.1 His pedigree: Four generations infers some prominence. Ramah (1:19) is a small town 5 miles north of future Jerusalem.
 - 3.2 His prosperity: Multiple wives are for men with some money.
 - 3.3 His piety: Public worship of the Lord of Hosts. This is the first time "Lord of Hosts" is used in the Bible. "Hosts" (Heb., *sabaoth*) refers to heavenly armies. God is the universal ruler over every force in heaven or on earth. He is not merely a local deity.
 - 3.4 His polygamy: Did the barrenness of Hannah ("Gracious") lead him to take on Penninah ("Prolific")?
4. Hannah's Fertile Rival: Penninah and the Polygamy Problem (1:6–8)
 - 4.1 The Bible defines marriage as monogamous (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5)
 - 4.2 The Bible neither commends nor commands polygamy.
 - 4.3 The Bible temporarily permits it as a cultural reality (1 Sam. 25:32ff).
 - 4.4 The Bible regulates it to protect women and children (Ex. 21:10).
 - 4.5 The Bible offers no positive example of polygamy where men or women thrive (Gen. 29:17ff).
 - 4.6 The Bible clearly reports the dysfunction, abuse, injustice, exploitation, and dehumanization of women and children linked to polygamy (2 Chron. 11:21; 13:21; Gen. 16:29–31; 1 Sam. 1; 1 Kings 11; Dt. 17:17).
 - 4.7 Jesus and the apostles reaffirm the definition of marriage that excludes polygamy (Mt. 19; Col. 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7).
 - 4.8 Jesus is monogamous, having only one bride (Eph. 5:25; Rev. 21:9).
 - 4.9 The New Testament clearly condemns polygamy (1 Tim. 3:2).

- 4.10 The precepts and principles of the Bible *necessarily* lead to the abolishment of polygamy in any culture where Christianity spreads. The Bible's dramatic and forthright reporting of polygamy and its dismal consequences is a strong warning to those who redefine marriage.
5. Hannah's Desperate Prayer (1:9–11)
- 5.1 Humility: The "Lord of Hosts" has time for a barren woman from the hill country.
- 5.2 Brokenness: "affliction"
- 5.3 Boldness: If you give me a son, I will give him to you. But if not, I will still serve you. "No razor": The Nazirite vow (Nu. 6). Cf. Luke 1:13–17, the "fellowship of barrenness" (Davis).
6. Hannah's Suspicious High Priest: Eli (1:12–18)
- 6.1 Eli is introduced as a leader who lacks spiritual discernment.
- 6.2 Hannah is a godly woman who takes her pain to the Lord, not to the world's idols.
- 6.3 The God of Israel: the one and only true God who delivered us from Egypt is able.
- 6.4 Hannah is comforted *after* the prayer is offered and *before* the prayer is answered.
7. Hannah's Son: Samuel (1:19–23)
- 7.1 The prayer is answered through normal means and quiet obedience to the Lord.
- 7.2 "Samu-El": "name of God" or "offspring of God" or "God hears." His name testifies that he is gift to Hannah, and all the world, from the God who hears our prayers.
8. Hannah's Costly Sacrifice: (1:24–28)
- 8.1 A vow offering of a bull (and flour, and wine?) to celebrate God's answer to prayer (Lev. 7:16)
- 8.2 Her only beloved son.
9. Hannah's Theological Song (2:1–11)
- 9.1 Uniqueness: There is only one true and living God (monotheism) (2; cf. Isa. 64:1–4; 46:1–4).
- 9.2 Omniscience: God knows all things and looks beyond appearances to the heart (3; cf. 16:7; 2 Cor. 5:12).
- 9.3 Omnipotence: God is able to do all things because his power is greater than all created things, including militaries, economies, fertility, death, life, wealth, and positions of authority. Therefore, nothing and no one can thwart his plans (4–8).
- 9.4 Mercy: God will protect those who trust in him from the wrath they deserve (9–10).
- 9.5 Justice: God will give to unbelievers the wrath they deserve (9–10).
- 9.6 Kingship: While earthly kings are limited in knowledge, power, character, and jurisdiction, God's kingship is eternal and universal (10b; cf. Ps. 96:10). Israel is a nation set apart to be blessed with "his king," the messiah who will lead, provide for, and protect his people with great strength.

Principles to Live By

1. Women can and should aspire to be proficient theologians.
2. Bad things happen when God's word is ignored and marriage is redefined.
3. No one names their daughter Peninnah.
4. God will use your enemies for your good and his glory (cf. Jn. 19:15f).
5. God is the Lord of wombs and he alone has the authority to give and take life (Lk. 1:44f).
6. When your heart is sad, boldly pour out your soul in prayer to a God who cares.
7. God frequently brings us to a point of emptiness through afflictions before he uses us (2 Cor. 1:4f).
8. All children belong to God and are entrusted to parents who prepare them for service to the Lord.
9. We only give to God what we've been given by God (Ro. 11:35; 1 Cor. 4:7).
10. Keep your vows, no matter what (Ecc. 5:4–6; Ps. 15).
11. Your greatest contribution to world evangelism might not be recognized in your lifetime.
12. Every page of the Bible is about Jesus.