

A Study of I Samuel

The Desiring for a King

Chapter One

Hannah – A Godly Mother (1:1-2:11)

Hannah's Spouse (1-3): Elkanah was the father of Samuel and the husband of Hannah; he was a Levite who lived in Ephraim (I Sam. 1:1 cf. 1 Chronicles 6:34). Samuel's family was from Ramathaim-Zophim, also known simply as Ramah. Ramah is a town about five miles north of Jerusalem, a town of prophetic significance (Jer. 31:15 cf. Matthew 2:16-18).

Elkanah's yearly sacrifice was at Shiloh (see Ex 23:14; 34:23; De 16:16). Shiloh was the home of the tabernacle (Joshua 18:1, Judges 18:31) until the ark was captured in battle with the Philistines (I Sam. 4:4-11). The ark never again returned to Shiloh, therefore it never again became the house of worship (see Psalm 78:60 cf. Jer. 7:12-15 also see Appendix One).

Hannah's Sorrow (4-8): Hannah was barren ¹of the Lord (vs. 3, 5). Having children was a sign of God's blessing (Deut. 7:13-14). Within every woman of the Jewish people was also the hope that her child would be the coming Redeemer, the Deliverer, the Messiah of God (see Hannah's prayer 2:1-11). Hannah's barrenness was a burden to her; however, this was multiplied by the continual provoking of Peninnah, her adversary ² causing Hannah to "fret" and "not eat," to be "grieved" and "bitter," having a "sorrowful spirit" (6-8, 10, 15). Hannah went up year-by-year to Shiloh where she would meet her family and friends which only added to her plight of having a barren womb.

Hannah's bitterness caused her to not recognize the grace of God. Hannah had no children, but she had a husband that loved her and was sympathetic towards her state (8).

¹ As was Sarah (Isaac), Rebekah (Jacob), Rachel (Joseph), Samson's mother, & Elizabeth (John the Baptist)

² The word adversary is used for Peninnah because she "provoked her sore for to make her fret." This is more than an enemy.

Hannah's Supplication (9-18): Hannah was so distraught over her condition that she left the feast without eating or drinking to go to the tabernacle ³and pray (9). Hannah was a woman of prayer and therefore so was Samuel.

Hannah took the right steps for healing, *first* she took her bitterness to God and *second*, she made a commitment to God.

Hannah offered her first born son to the Lord (11). The dedication of her son to the Lord was the Nazarite vow described in Numbers 6:1-8. It was the same vow undertaken by Samson, whom they dedicated to the LORD under nearly identical circumstances (Judges 13:2-5).

Eli falsely accused Hannah of being drunk, of the children of Belial (13-14). His quick rebuke of Hannah was very hypocritical given that his own sons were sons of Belial ⁴ (13-16 cf. 2:12, 17). Hannah assures Eli she had not drunken wine nor strong drink but was of a sorrowful spirit (15-16). Eli responds to Hannah assuring her that her petition would be granted (17). Upon hearing that God would grant her request Hannah leaves, being sad no more (17-18).

Hannah's Son (19-28): God answers Hannah's prayer giving Hannah a son whom she names Samuel, meaning "asked of the Lord" (19-20). Hannah keeps Samuel home until he is weaned, about three years according to custom (21-23).

Following the time of Samuel's weaning Hannah fulfilled her vow to the Lord by bringing Samuel and an offering to Eli to the tabernacle at Shiloh (24-25 see Num. 15:8-10 for offering). Hannah reminds Eli how she was the woman that prayed unto the Lord before him for a child, which prayer the Lord answered (26-27). Hannah therefore presents Samuel into the service of the LORD for all the days of his life (28).

³ The word "temple" used in our text for the tabernacle at Shiloh was the temple of the Lord, a place of worship.

⁴ **Children of Belial:** Children of the devil; they that serve other gods (Deut. 13:13), are morally perverted (Judges 19:22 cf. Gen. 10:16-20), are unbelievers (I Sam. 2:12 cf. 2 Cor. 6:15).

