

Lesson 13 - 1 Samuel 1- 2:17

The Birth of Samuel, The Song of Hannah, the Sons of Eli

The Book of Judges explained how the LORD is involved in the events of history. When Israel prayed to the LORD, and honored the Covenant, Israel was blessed. When Israel forgot the LORD and worshipped the gods of the Canaanites or Philistines, the people were overcome by their enemies and oppressed by them for years at a time. When the people repented and called out to the LORD again, the Lord would send a judge to defeat their enemies. The last chapters of Judges are used to show that Israel had become morally and spiritually depraved. The Law was not observed, and after the civil war with the tribe of Benjamin, there was no unity and no one to bring the people back to the LORD. "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own sight." (Judges 21:25)

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel move forward from "the last of the judges to the decline of David's reign and the beginning of a legendary "Golden Age" under Solomon's rule." (NABRE)

- 1. Read the introduction to 1 Samuel in your Bible. Share any interesting background information that you find there.**
- 2. Read 1 Samuel 1-8 and footnotes. See also Numbers 3:27-31 below.**

What do we know about Elkanah?

As a member of the clan of the Kohathites, what were the duties of Elkanah at the sanctuary?

Is he a "godly" man?

How does he show his compassion and affection for Hannah? (See verses 4-5.)

Numbers 3:27-31 To Kohath belonged the clans of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites; these were the clans of the Kohathites. ²⁸ Their enrollment, registering every male of a month or more, was eight thousand three hundred. They were the ones who performed the duties of the sanctuary. ²⁹ **The clans of the Kohathites camped on the south side of the tabernacle.** ³⁰ **And the leader of their ancestral house of the clan of the Kohathites was Elizaphan, son of Uzziel.** ³¹ **Their responsibility was the ark, the table, the menorah, the altars, the utensils of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, the veil, and everything pertaining to their maintenance.**

- 3. What do we know about Peninnah?**

How does Peninnah treat Hannah?

4. Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18 and footnotes.

Hannah is unhappy. Where does she go to find relief from her misery?

What vow does Hannah make to the LORD?

5. Reflection. Have you ever had a heartfelt, prayer answered at a time of great sorrow or need?

When you realize that your prayer was answered by God, how does it change you?

6. Who is Eli?

What is his initial impression of Hannah?

How do Eli's words help Hannah? See verses 17-18.

7. Read 1 Samuel 1:20-28 and footnotes. It must have been difficult for Hannah to give up her son. On the day she took him to the sanctuary, what other offerings did she bring?

How did the LORD bless her after making such a sacrifice? (See 1 Samuel 2:21)

8. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

How does Hannah describe the LORD in these verses? Pick out specific verses and phrases.

Which phrases in Hannah's Song or prayer describe the reversal of circumstances that are possible with the LORD's intervention?

9. Read 1 Samuel 2:11-17 and footnotes. Share any interesting footnotes with your group.

Read also Numbers 18: 17-18 and Leviticus 3: 16-17 below.

What is your impression of the sons of Eli?

Eli is the chief priest at the sanctuary at Shiloh. Do you think his sons should succeed their father as priests? Why or why not?

Leviticus 3: 16-17 ¹⁶ The priest shall burn these on the altar as food, a sweet-smelling oblation. **All the fat belongs to the LORD.** ¹⁷ This shall be a perpetual ordinance for your descendants wherever they may dwell. You shall not eat any fat or any blood.

Numbers 18: 17-18 But the firstborn of cattle, or the firstborn of sheep or the firstborn of goats you shall not redeem; they are holy. Their blood you must splash on the altar and **their fat you must burn as an oblation of pleasing aroma to the LORD.** ¹⁸ Their meat, however, shall be yours, just as the brisket of the elevated offering and the right thigh belong to you.