

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 5TH-6TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

## AUTHORSHIP AND TIMELINE

1 and 2 Samuel were one book, but were divided. There's no mention of an author, but many believe Samuel wrote the majority with the help of prophets Nathan and Gad.

- Though these books began around 1100 B.C., they were not completed until around the 8th Century B.C.
- The actual distribution and reading of this book was probably not until the 6th Century B.C., the time of Daniel and the Babylonian Exile. This book was valuable because it showed historical mistakes and how to avoid them in the future.
- **There are catastrophic consequences if a people neglect or rewrite history.**

## SETTING AND BACKGROUND

We move from the Exodus and establishment of God's laws (10 C's), to the people of God occupying the Promise Land (Israel), to the chaotic time of the Judges, then to the rise of the monarchy with Saul and David.

- The Jews were under foreign threat with no central government or king to "protect" them.
- The people had also slipped into apostasy. The book of Judges shows us the Jews had become idolatrous, and **"everyone did what seemed right to them"** (Judges 21:25).
- **When they should've been in prayer and obedience to God, the people instead wanted a quick-fix worldly solution.**

## MESSAGE AND THEMES

1 Samuel doesn't introduce new theology into the Bible narrative, it reinforces the truths and teachings of the Torah (first 5 books).

- It will also focus on broad principles such as **obedience, the promises of God, living in the presence of and in a relationship with God, and the consequences of sin.**
- We will also see the power of leadership, both good and bad. **When leaders are humble and look to God, people flourish. When leaders are prideful and self-serving, the people suffer and chaos ensues.**
- This isn't just for royalty, but anyone in any leadership role.

## HARD TIMES (1 SAMUEL 1:1-8)

### ELKANAH (GOD HAS CREATED)

Samuel's father was from the south-central part of Israel called Ephraim. He was from the tribe of Levi (Levite), who would help with worship ceremonies.

- The seemingly minor details in the OT give the stories validity and play a part in the truths and lessons we learn from these books.

### HANNAH (GRACIOUS) AND PENINNAH (PEARL)

Polygamy isn't condoned in the OT, but many men took a 2nd wife if their 1st was infertile because they needed an heir to take care of their wife if they died and to preserve their bloodline and estate.

- **Polygamy (like most sexual sin) was a result of not trusting God or selfishness and the Bible records the ramifications.**

### A LONG LINE OF BARREN WIVES

We learn that Hannah is infertile similar to Sarah (Genesis 11), Rachel (Genesis 29), Samson's mom (Judges 13:2), and Elizabeth (Luke 1:7).

- From all of these stories we learn that when **God's people are without hope, strength, or answers, God comes through how He chooses because He loves us.**

### THE WORSHIP SERVICES BECAME LABORIOUS

Yearly (possibly 3 times), Elkanah's family would travel to Shiloh (north) to worship and sacrifice to God. At the temple, they would see Eli (a priest and judge) and his sons.

- These trips became hard for Hannah because she was reminded she had no son to serve as a Levite like Eli and her husband.

### ELKANAH'S PARTIALITY TO HANNAH

When making sacrifices, people would eat a portion. When doing this, Elk would give Hannah double what he gave Peninnah because he "loved her." This made Pen angry and vindictive.

- Here we see **the result of divided allegiance.** We can take this and apply it to our relationship with Jesus (**Matthew 12:25**).

### WHERE TO TAKE OUR ANXIETY AND SADNESS

Pen's treatment of Hannah drove her to "weep and...not eat," that seem to be signs of depression and anxiety.

- Anxiety and depression are real and often caused by trauma. **Though medication and counsel are needed at times, we must also make sure we bring them to the Lord first!**

### EVEN THE CLOSEST PEOPLE FALL SHORT

What Hannah needed was understanding and empathy, which it seems her husband fell short in providing. This isn't necessarily a knock on Elk, but it does acknowledge his shortcomings.

- **Even the best people in our lives fall short of what we ultimately need. This is why we must have a relationship with God!**

### THE RIGHT SOURCE (1 SAMUEL 1:9-18)

#### LEANING ON THE RIGHT SUPPORT

Though Pen's abuse may have been intended to distance Hannah from God, it actually

pushed her closer to Him.

- We will all suffer and face difficult situations, the question is, where will we run in those times? **We must trust in His Word and the leading of His Spirit in tough times!**
- Hannah recognized that God is the only giver of life. So she approached Him with **respect, proper attitude, humility**, and even made a **proper request.**
- **We must approach God seeking His wisdom and will for us. We must also be willing to dedicate everything to Him.**

## NAZARITE VOWS

To dedicate a child in a Nazarite vow was serious. This meant her son would be given to the Temple priest at an early age to serve in the worship ceremonies and live a very strict life.

- This was in essence a **pledge to give her child back to God.** Though different, **we're to make the same pledge as parents.**

## ANOTHER PERSON MISSES THE MARK

As Hannah was emotionally praying aloud, Eli the priest was watching her and insensitively assumed she was drunk.

- **We must make sure we never become people that look at the outside more than the heart. We cannot become spiritually blind and lose our empathy!**

## HANNAH'S RESPONSE CHANGED THE ATMOSPHERE

Notice, **Hannah doesn't respond to Eli's accusations with hostility or offense (1 Peter 3), but with clarity and humility.** This makes Eli recognize his mistake and affirm her prayer.

- **When we respond in a Christ-like manner, it not only blesses us, it may also change people around us.**

## "SHE ATE AND NO LONGER LOOKED DESPONDENT"

In going to the Lord and trusting in Him, Hannah's depression and anxiety start to diminish.

- Proverbs 13:12 says that a lack of hope makes the heart sick. **We must have legitimate hope to not drown in despair. Hope comes from the One who holds the future.**

## GIVING AWAY (1 SAMUEL 1:19-28)

### THE NEXT MORNING

The next day after worshiping in Shiloh, Elk and Hannah return home. That night they were "intimate...and the Lord remembered her."

- "After some time" Hannah got pregnant and had a boy she named Samuel, which can mean *name of God, request of God, or heard by God.*

## ANOTHER TRIP TO SHILOH

The year following Sam's birth, the family went to make another trip to Shiloh, but Hannah decided not to go because she hadn't weaned Sam off her yet. Women breastfed much longer than many do today.

- There might have also been a hesitation to go because Sam wouldn't be coming back.

## OUR VOW IS SERIOUS

Elkanah said, "Do what you think is best...May the Lord confirm your word." This was a subtle reminder to Hannah that she gave her word to the Lord and had to fulfill her vow.

- We do this too. **We pray in times of desperation, God works, we get comfortable again, and we make mistakes.**

## A WOMAN OF HER WORD

Though it must have been difficult, Hannah took Samuel (probably when he was 3) and a large sacrifice and went to Shiloh to spiritually and literally give him to God.

- **We learn that nothing is truly ours, we are just stewards of what belongs to God. We must trust all things into His hands.**

## CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

- Elkanah relied on worldly solutions to fix his problems, and it only caused pain. **When we have a divided heart, we invite chaos, hardship, and hurt into our lives.**
- We also see that Hannah's **hurt couldn't ultimately be fixed by any person**, she needed a greater source for help.

## RUNNING TO THE CORRECT SOURCE

- In times of sadness, depression, anxiety, confusion, etc..., things like counselors, exercise, diet, sunshine or medication may be good supplements, but **we must first run to God for help, guidance, and healing!**
- But, where do we run in times of trouble? **Do we trust in God's power?**

## EVERYTHING IS HIS

- Though it's hard at times to give everything to God, we must remember **it is only by Him we have anything good** (James 1:17).
- We must also trust that He has a greater plan for us (Jeremiah 29:11) and **however things shake down, it is for His glory and our benefit. Do we live in that truth?**