

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 6TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

INTRODUCTION (1 SAMUEL) THE BOOK OF SAMUEL

1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book in the ancient Hebrew manuscript and was only divided later into two separate books because of scroll length.

- The events in the book of Samuel span 3 centuries starting in the late 12th Century and wrapping up in the in the early 10th Century.

AUTHORSHIP

The date and authorship of the book of Samuel is speculative because a name and date is not given in the writing.

- Believed to have been written sometime after 960 BC, Samuel would have been a main contributor up until Ch. 25, with the work possibly being completed by the prophets Nathan and Gad (1 Chronicles 29:29).

LEADING UP TO SAMUEL

The book of Exodus shows the nation of Israel being brought out of bondage from Egypt and making a covenant with God. In Joshua, the Israelites enter the promised land.

- The book of Judges, shows the failure of the Israelites to adhere to the covenant that was established. We see chaos and the need for wise faithful leaders.

LAST TWO JUDGES AND FIRST TWO KINGS

Leading up to Samuel, the nation of Israel was divided by tribes, and **“in those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever seemed right to him”** (Judges 21:25).

- The book of Samuel is the answer to the need for **the unification of God's people and the foreshadowing of a Kingdom led by the “Son of David”** (Revelation 22:16).

GREAT LESSONS AND REMINDERS

The book of Samuel is one of the most detailed books of the O.T. and is a great character study for us to find ourselves in everyone mentioned.

- The book has three main characters: **Samuel, Saul, and David**, but **great lessons can be learned from the minor characters if we are open and honest.**

HANNAH'S TROUBLED (1 SAMUEL 1:1-8) “THERE WAS A MAN...”

We are introduced to a man named **Elkanah** and quickly told about his residence, lineage, and marital status.

- His family line was from Levi, making him a **Levite**, but he lived in a city bordering Ephraim, which is why he is **referred to as an Ephaimite**. **Elkanah had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah.**

DESCRIPTIVE NOT PRESCRIPTIVE

Though polygamy was often a part of the ancient world, **the Bible never condones the practice of taking multiple wives.**

- Anywhere we see polygamous relationships in the Bible, we see the **friction and conflict** that come along with it. Here we see **conflict between the two wives, because Peninnah had children and Hannah could not.**

OUR PERSPECTIVE MAY NOT MATCH HIS PLAN

The text communicates that it was **“the Lord that had kept her [Hannah] from conceiving.”**

- It seems unfair that Peninnah, who seems of bad character, is blessed with children, while Hannah, who appears to be of good character, is unable to conceive a child. Sometimes **we will not understand God's ways until His plan is complete.**

GOES BEYOND THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION

Hannah is not the only woman in Scripture with trouble conceiving: There is Sarah (Genesis 11:30), Rebekah (Genesis 25:20-21), Rachel (Genesis 29:31), Samson's mother (Judges 13:2), Elizabeth (Luke 1:7)

- **God often shows his ability through our inability, by stretching out His hand when we are hopeless and helpless.**

BONEHEADED ATTEMPT TO COMFORT

When Elkanah offered a sacrifice, he always gave Hannah twice what Peninnah did because he loved her. Hannah could not enjoy this display of favor and love because of the taunting from her rival.

- Elkanah **attempts to comfort her**, but **instead of being empathetic and understanding, he takes a self-centered approach.**

HANNAH'S VOW (1 SAMUEL 1:9-18) HANNAH PRAYS WITH HUMILITY

Deeply hurt, she prayed and wept to the Lord. In her prayer, she **refers to herself as a servant** three times while referring to God as the **“Lord of Armies.”**

- Hannah **humbly acknowledged the sovereignty of God over all things. If He is sovereign over the armies of Heaven, then He is sovereign over the details of her life.**

HANNAH PRAYS SACRIFICIALLY

Hannah vows that she will dedicate her son to the Lord **“all the days of his life.”**

- As a Levite, her son would be strictly dedicated to the Lord (Numbers 6) from the age of 30 until 50, but **Hannah sacrificially offers what she is asking for back to God** and not

temporarily but for his entire life.

THE POOR STATE OF THE TEMPLE IN SHILOH

Eli's sons were evil (2:17), and the assumption that someone would be drunk in the temple does not speak well for the state of the temple.

- The **brokenness of those leading** at the temple and **the inner turmoil she experienced did not keep her from bringing her worship to God.**

GIVE IT ALL TO THE LORD

Hannah brought her **pain and anguish** to the Lord. Eli thought she had **poured out too much wine, but all she poured out was her heart.**

- She was honest with Lord. She did not challenge Him, curse Him, or reject Him. Instead, **she gave it all to Him and trusted in His timing and provision.**

SAMUEL'S BIRTH (1 SAMUEL 1:19-28) IS THE LORD FORGETFUL?

Verse 19 says, **“and the Lord remembered her.”** Does this mean that the Lord had forgotten her?

- This is an attempt to describe the actions or behaviors of God in a way that people can understand them. **God had not forgotten Hannah, but in His perfect timing, she conceived a son.**

FAITH IN UNCERTAINTY

Notice the faith of Hannah. She woke early and began praising the Lord though her prayer was not answered.

- The text says, **“after some time, Hannah conceived.”** Though we do not know how much time had passed, we do know that it was not immediate, but **Hannah faithfully trusted God's will.**

A PUN FOR A NAME

The name Samuel means **“the name of God,”** and Hannah picked this name because she requested him from the Lord.

- Hannah named him Samuel because of the meaning and how it sounds. **In Hebrew, the word for “asked” sounds like Samuel.** His name would serve as a memorial of her request.

WORSHIP THE LORD OF ARMIES

- Worship was a part of life for Elkanah and Hannah. In difficult and uncertain times, even as she gave her son to Lord, she praised Him.
- **We must trust in God's timing and provision enough to “bring a sacrifice of praise” (Hebrews 13:15) in every circumstance.**

PRAY TO THE LORD OF ARMIES

- Be honest and empty yourself out before the Lord.
- Humble yourself before the Lord. The proper position of a Believer before the Lord is one of absolute surrender.
- Give every problem, every fear, and every doubt to Him. We give everything to Him because He knows how to handle it.