

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This evening, we are starting a new book. I told you guys that we were beginning 1 Samuel and after we finish 1 Samuel, we will move on to 2 Samuel.

### **Brief Introduction:**

**When was it written:** around 1100 BC

**Author:** We really don't know who wrote the books 1,2 Samuel.

We know it couldn't have been Samuel, himself, because he dies in chapter 25 of 1 Samuel.

I believe that the reason that they are named after Samuel is because these two books demonstrate to us the tremendous impact of his ministry, among the Children of Israel.

One of the notable things that we will see in the life of Samuel was that he was a prophet of God.

Samuel is cited in scripture - alongside Moses and Aaron as men who called on God and were answered

**[Psa 99:5-7 NKJV] 5 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool--He [is] holy. 6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them. 7 He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them.**

Not only was Samuel a prophet, he is also considered Israel's greatest judge.

However, when we read about the notable judges in the Book of Judges –

Judges like Samson, Gideon and Jephthah – they were famous judges because they physically delivered the Israelites. They led armies against the enemies of Israel.

Samson however, as we will see – does not lead armies. He will deliver the Israelites spiritually.

Samuel is going to be the one who will anoint Israel's first two kings.

One of the notable verse from 1,2 Samuel that we can all apply in our daily walk is 1 Samuel 15:22.

**[1Sa 15:22 NKJV] 22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, [And] to heed than the fat of rams.**

And this one verse – lays out the theme for these two books.

*Obedience to God's Word must always be our top priority.*

Let's pray...

[1Sa 1:1-28 NKJV] 1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name [was] Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 **And he had two wives:** the name of one [was] Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in **Shiloh**. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, [were] there. 4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. 6 And her rival also provoked her

**severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.**

1 Samuel takes place around the same time as the book of Ruth.

And in the same way that God chose Ruth, a Moabite, a gentile for His purpose – we will see Him select another person who He would be able to work through.

And before God will be able to work through Samuel, He is going to work in the life of Hannah.

In verse one, we are introduced to Hannah's husband Elkanah – now here in verse 1 it appears that he is from the tribe of Ephraim.

However, that is not the case – 1 Chronicles 6 tells us that he was a Levite.

The Levites did not get a physical inheritance when they went into the Promised Land.

They dwelt in cities within the 12 tribes.

The reason he is called an Ephramite is that he and his family lived in one of these Levitical cities within the tribe of Ephraim.

We also see in verse two that Elkanah had two wives.

Hannah and Peninnah

Hannah means “favored/grace”

Peninnah means “ruby/jewel”

As I mentioned to you before, just because God allows it, doesn't mean that God condones it.

And every example that we see in scripture of someone living in polygamy – there is never a “and they lived happily ever after”

Every example that we have of polygamy in scripture is always associated with chaos and dysfunction.

We saw it with Abraham and Sarah/Hagar

We saw this with Jacob and Leah/Rachel

Here we see it with Elkanah and Hannah/Peninnah. And just like with Jacob and his wives, we will see that there is contention among them because one of them has children and the other one doesn't have children.

And you have to remember that back then, as a wife, as a woman, you got your sense of value or self-esteem from your children.

If a woman had lots of children, then she was proud of herself.

If she had no children, she often felt worthless.

This was sometimes the very reason a man would take a second wife – in order to have children (like we saw with Abraham with Hagar).

Verse three tells us that they were going up Shilo to sacrifice and worship.

Where / what is Shilo??

During this time, the temple had not been built – that doesn't happen until King Solomon.

Shilo is the semi-permanent place where the tabernacle was.

And the tabernacle is the tent that the Children of Israel moved from place to place in the wilderness – the Children of Israel built it according to God's plan and the reason that it was built was so that the Children of Israel could worship God properly.

And as people brought sacrifices to the tabernacle, part of the process was that they would eat a certain portion of what was being sacrificed.

We see it in the peace offerings described in Leviticus chapter 3 and chapter 7.

It was like Thanksgiving – that is what is happening here.



**5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. 6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.**

Last week, as we finished the book of Ruth, when Boaz and Ruth finally get married, we read that the Lord gave her conception.

And here we see that the Lord is the one who is preventing conception.

He has blessed Peninnah with children – but what about Hannah???

I think many times, we find ourselves like Hannah – we don't understand why others are being blessed yet we continue struggling with a trial or tribulation.

Church, please understand that we will encounter many times when we don't understand God's ways until His plan has been completed.

We saw it in the life of Joseph

We saw it in the life of Naomi

Both of them could look back at their lives and realize why they had to endure the struggles they just went through.

Sometimes God simply needs to break us so that we will come to realize how much we need Him in our lives.

That is what we are going to see here happen to Hannah.

**7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. 8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? [Am] I not better to you than ten sons?"**

Guys, as husbands often times we don't know what to say.

I am exhibit A

So we say dumb things like this. Am I not better than ten sons.

Sometimes it would be better if we just shut up and held our wife.

That is exactly what Elkanah should have done here.

**9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. 10 And she [was] in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.**

This is the way to handle bitterness and anguish – through prayer.

**11 Then she made a vow** and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give

Your maidservant a male child, **then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life**, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Because the Children of Israel were required to go to Shilo every year to offer sacrifices, Hannah had to endure Penninah provoking her.

And I am pretty sure that every year that it happened Hannah prayed that the Lord will give her a male child.

And year after year, the Lord's response was wait... **after all wait is an answer.**

Wait for what?

**You see, God waited for Hannah to say, "give me a child and I will give it back to You."**

You see, Hannah initially wanted a son to please her husband. That is why she was sad. She wanted to feel worthwhile.

However, God had other plans. God wanted a prophet to give to a nation.

You see, God had a much bigger and bolder and greater plan for the son than Hannah did.

Often times we need to remind ourselves that prayer is not getting God to do my will. But about getting me in line with His will.

Let's take a look at this vow.

Two of the other famous biblical men that took the Nazarite vow were Samson and John the Baptist.

The Law of the Nazirite

[Num 6:1-8 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2

"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When either a

man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a

Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD, 3 'he shall separate

himself from wine and [similar] drink; he shall drink neither vinegar

made from wine nor vinegar made from [similar] drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins. 4 'All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin. 5 'All the days of the vow of his separation no razor shall come upon his head; until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. [Then] he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. 6 'All the days that he separates himself to the LORD he shall not go near a dead body. 7 'He shall not make himself unclean even for his father or his mother, for his brother or his sister, when they die, because his separation to God [is] on his head. 8 'All the days of his separation he shall be holy to the LORD.

They couldn't cut their hair, they couldn't eat/drink anything that was produced from a vine and they couldn't touch a dead carcass – when you read the life of Samson, he violates every single one of these as he pursues his desires.

The Nazarite vow was not intended to be a lifelong vow – however, with Samson and Samuel – their vows started from the time of their birth.

**12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!" 15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I [am] a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 "Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now." 17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." 18 And she said, "Let your maidservant**

**find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer [sad].**

Eli watches Hannah pray and thinks that she is drunk.

The same thing happened at the Day of Pentecost when the disciples started speaking in tongues.

And just like Hannah was able to respond to the accusation of Eli, Peter was able to respond to the accusations of those that were there at the Day of Pentecost.

However, notice the change in Hannah's countenance. She was no longer sad.

When Eli told her "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." – Hannah chose to believe.

She came in with a peace offering and she left at peace with the Lord.



**19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah.**

**And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.**

Sometimes we can get confused when we read – and the LORD remembered her. It is not like God was busy doing something else and all of a sudden He slaps His head because He just remembered Hannah's prayer.

It is not like when the butler remembered about Joseph when Pharaoh had the dream.

That's not what is happening here.

The term remembered is an anthropomorphism, a way of explaining God's actions in human terms so that we can understand, even if it doesn't perfectly describe God's action.

Another example is after the flood when God sets the rainbow – He tells Noah that it is a sign of the covenant between Him and earth so that He will remember.

**20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, [saying], "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."**

**The name Samuel means "asked of God"**

In naming her baby, Hannah remembered that his delivery was in response to her prayer made nine months earlier.

And whether God answers our prayers in nine days, nine months or nine years, I believe that it is important to realize that God has answered prayers that we have previously prayed about.

That is why I believe it is important to have a prayer journal – so that when God answers prayer, you can make a note of it. That way, during times when we are down because we feel that God is

not listening or not answering our prayers, we can always open up our prayer journals and see how faithful He has actually been.

**21 Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "[Not] until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever." 23 So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.**

**This is probably the smartest thing Elkanah has said the entire chapter - He said, "do everything in obedience to God so we may see His word established among us."**

**24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and**

**brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child [was] young.**

How old was Samuel when Hannah brought him to the tabernacle to leave him there.

Many theologians believe that he was between the age of three and four years old.

**25 Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.**

**26 And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I [am] the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. 27**

**"For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. 28 "Therefore I also have lent**

**him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.**

The Hebrew word translated "lent" literally means "returned"

Hannah vowed that she would give her child to the Lord – and here she honors her vow.

We also see at the end of the chapter as the family worshipped the Lord.

Worship is a repeated characteristic of this family – we see the word worship in verse 3, 19 and here in verse 28

Even in difficult situations, they could worship the LORD.

Praising God on the day you give your little son away may not be easy, but it is praise God is pleased with, even as we are told to bring a sacrifice of praise to God

**[Heb 13:15-16 NKJV] 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of [our] lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**

The writer to the Hebrews explains several essentials for proper praise.

- Praise that pleases God is offered by Him, that is by Jesus Christ, on the ground of His righteousness and pleasing God.
- Praise that pleases God is offered **continually**, so that we are always praising Him.
- Praise that pleases God is a sacrifice of praise, in that it may be **costly or inconvenient**.
- Praise that pleases God is the fruit of our lips, **more than just thoughts directed towards God. It is spoken out unto the Lord.**

May we worship and praise the Lord in all that we do.

Amen.

**Let's pray...**

