**Week of Sept 8, 2019**

**1 Samuel 1:9-20**

**Key Verse:** “Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.” (1 Samuel 1:17)

9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. 12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. 17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. 18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So, the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad. 19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. 20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

The book of 1 Samuel covers several years of Israel’s history. It starts with the birth of Samuel and ends with the death of Saul, Israel’s first King. The events surrounding the biblical story today would have occurred approximately 1100 BC. The purpose of the books of Samuel are to “provide and account of the history of Israel from the end of the 12th through the 10th centuries before Christ”. The author of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel are anonymous; however, many scholars believe Samuel may have written the books or at least supplied the information up to 1 Samuel 1:1-25:1. First Samuel begins with an account of Samuel’s family, Elikanah was his father and Hannah was his mother. Elkanah was described as a descendant of Ephraim, but in 1 Chronicles 6:22-28, he is known as a Levite through Kohath. Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah was barren while Peninnah had children. The Bible does not tell why Hannah was barren, but we do know that everything that happens is for God’s glory. During Hannah’s day, because a Hebrew man’s prosperity was bound up in his having a s son to perpetuate the name, his wife’s inability to conceive a son was regarded as a curse from God. Like the case of Abraham and Sarah, when a man’s wife could not bear children, he would often take a second wife to bear children for him. This may be the reason why Hannah prayed so earnestly for a son. Hannah promised to raise her child as Nazarite. In the book of Numbers chapter 6, it describes what the vow of a Nazarite involves. God would later remember Hannah and she bore a son, naming him Samuel. The Lord’s ‘remembering” Hannah is reminiscent of Exodus 2:24. God remembering of the covenant with Abraham’s descendants led to the calling of Moses, a great leader.

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