

“Samuel – Given to God”

1st Samuel 2

Samuel was brought forth by God in a time of spiritual decline.

I. How did Hannah handle her sorrow? 1 Samuel 1:9-18

1 Samuel 1:9–18 — ⁹ Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰ She, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. ¹¹ 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 son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.” ¹² Now it came about, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli was watching her mouth. ...

¹⁸ 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.”

A. What kind of prayer did Hannah pray to the Lord?

B. In what way was this prayer request beneficial for the Lord also?

C. Understand: True prayer is always based first on surrender to the will of God, not the need of man.

II. Since prayer reflects the heart, what can we see that was in the heart of Samuel’s mother?

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (After Hannah has weaned young Samuel and has come to pay her vow)

1 Samuel 2:1–10 — ¹ Then Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord, My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. ² “There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. ³ “Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed. ⁴ “The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble gird on strength. ⁵ “Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry cease to hunger. Even the barren gives birth to seven, But she who has many children languishes. ⁶ “The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷ “The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. ⁸ “He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, And He set the world on them. ⁹ “He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail. ¹⁰ “Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed.””

A. What true things did she exalt about the Lord? (Circle them)

III. What was the spiritual atmosphere of the workers around the tabernacle? 1 Samuel 2:12-26

1 Samuel 2:12–26 — ¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the Lord ¹³ and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man was offering a sacrifice, the

priest's servant would come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand. ¹⁴ Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. ¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest meat for roasting, as he will not take boiled meat from you, only raw." ¹⁶ If the man said to him, "They must surely burn the fat first, and then take as much as you desire," then he would say, "No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force." ¹⁷ Thus **the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for the men despised the offering of the Lord...**

²² Now Eli was very old; and **he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway** of the tent of meeting. ²³ He said to them, "Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people?" ²⁴ "No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the Lord's people circulating. ²⁵ "If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?" **But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the Lord desired to put them to death."**

A. What kind of men were the son's of Eli?

B. What sins were prevalent in the ministry of the tabernacle?

IV. Elaborate on the actions and attitudes of little Samuel.

1 Samuel 2:11 — ¹¹ Then Elkanah went to his home at Ramah. But the boy ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest."

1 Samuel 2:18-21 — ¹⁸ Now Samuel was ministering before the Lord, as a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the Lord give you children from this woman in place of the one she dedicated to the Lord." And they went to their own home. ²¹ The Lord visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew before the Lord."

1 Samuel 2:26 — ²⁶ Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the Lord and with men."

A. 1 Samuel 2:11 From the start, what did young Samuel do?

B. 1 Samuel 2:18-21 Knowing his parents would visit every year, what attitude did Samuel have?

C. 1 Samuel 2:26 What reputation was Samuel developing?