

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What prompted Hannah to pray for a son?
2. What attitudes can be seen in Hannah's prayer?
3. Was Eli's reaction to Hannah's prayer appropriate?
4. Discuss the parallel of the presentation of Samuel to the dedication of a believer.
5. How important is it to us and to God to thank Him for answered prayer?

SUMMARY:

The birth of Samuel is an example of God's answer to an unselfish prayer. Hannah asked God for a son, but she promised to give him unto the Lord. Hannah not only promised, but just as the Lord remembered her, Hannah remembered God by carrying out her promise.

In comparison to this, God will answer the contrite prayer of the sinner by giving new life in Him. The believer then has the responsibility of dedicating his new life unto good works and God's service.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

March 19, 2023

First Quarter

EARLY LIFE OF SAMUEL

LESSON TEXT: *1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:1-11*

LESSON SETTING: Shiloh, where Elkanah (Hannah's husband) had come to worship.

TIME: About 1171 B.C

I. PERSEVERANCE. 1 Samuel 1:1-23

- A. Secret Prayer (vs. 13) Matthew 6:6; Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12
- B. Faith (vs. 18) Genesis 22:8; 1 Samuel 17:37; Daniel 3:17

II. PRESENTATION. 1 Samuel 1:24-28

- A. Children (under the Law) (vs. 28) Exodus 22:29; Luke 2:27
- B. To the Believer (under Grace) Romans 12:1; 2 Timothy 2:21; James 4:6-7

III. PRAISE. 1 Samuel 2:1-11

- A. Prayers Answered. 1 Samuel 1:27; Psalm 91:15; Isaiah 65:24; Luke 11:9
- B. Thankfulness (2:1) Psalm 100:4; Colossians 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

GOLDEN TEXT: CHILDREN ARE AN HERITAGE OF THE LORD.

Psalm 127:3

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Samuel 2:27-36

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Numbers 16:15-35;
Hebrews 7:11-28

QUARTERLY THEME: Samuel and Saul- 1 Samuel

TOPIC: REJECTION OF ELI

INTRODUCTION:

Eli the priest had blessed Hannah and told her the Lord would grant the petition. Later he asked the Lord to give her more children because she had given her first born to the Lord. For these petitions Eli's faith never wavered, but why when his own sons were disobedient and sinned, did he not receive response from them when he admonished them? Did he lack in faith when the situation was his own personal one? Or had he neglected in presenting his sons to the Lord as Hannah did hers? He certainly had not warned his sons in time and had indeed done wrong regarding the sacrifice and offering and honored his sons more than his God. He had displeased God and punishment was to befall him and his sons. How pitiful that his sons did not heed their father's warnings. We must ever be watchful that we heed our Father's warnings and flee from the devil's temptations.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Careless living renders one unfit for service to God and disqualifies him for leadership.

GOLDEN TEXT: THEM THAT HONOUR ME, I WILL HONOUR, AND THEY THAT DESPISE ME SHALL BE LIGHTLY ESTEEMED.

1 Samuel 2:30

Whenever one who is in the Lord's service fails to follow God's ways it brings dishonor to God Himself. When Eli's sons brought evil and shameful customs into the priest's office all Israel was tempted to give up their sacrifices and so lost touch with God. The child Samuel however, was learning the ways of the House of the Lord, and "grew on and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men". (1 Samuel 2:26) Thus, when God took the office of priest from the house of Eli and gave it to Samuel, it was to the honor of God and the good of Israel.

In the New Covenant the same basic principles apply to our lives. If the redeemed of Christ do not walk carefully in His ways, it brings dishonor to the Gospel and places stumbling blocks in the way of those who should be added to His fold.

When we honor God, it is a blessing, both to others and ourselves. "The name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 20 – 26

Mon. The Sins of Eli's Sons. 1 Samuel 2:11-17

Tue. Samuel in Favor with God and Men. 1 Samuel 2:18-26

Wed. *Rejection of Eli. 1 Samuel 2:27-36

Thu. The Burning Censers. Numbers 16:15-22

Fri. The Wages of Sin. Numbers 16:23-35

Sat. After the Order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 7:11-17

Sun. The Unchangeable Priesthood of Christ. Hebrews 7:18-28

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