

The Making of a Samuel

Introduction: Today we honor our mothers and this message honors one of the great mothers of scripture—Hannah

Need to tell a story—The Story of Samuel

I. **The story of Samuel originates in the cultural backdrop of Israel's dark religious history—period of Judges.**

- A. Moses and the Exodus
- B. Joshua and the Conquest
- C. Death of Joshua

So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. 8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. Judges 2:7-10 NKJV

- D. Religious depravity of Israel without a leader

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 17:6 NKJV

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25 NKJV

- 1. Transition from Judges to Kings
- 2. Samuel the final judge
 - a. Would anoint Saul
 - b. Would anoint David

E. During this period the priesthood became corrupt

1. Eli—Hophni and Phineas (Priests at Shiloh)
2. Their great sin

Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord. 13 And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. 14 Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So 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 sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." 16 And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force." 17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord. 1 Samuel 2:12-17 NKJV

Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 23 So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. 24 No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the Lord's people transgress. 25 If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the Lord desired to kill them. 1 Samuel 2:22-25 NKJV

F. Samuel as a young man living in the Tabernacle would prophesy judgment

1. 1 Samuel 3—3 times a voice/Eli's advice
2. Revelation

Then the Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. 14 And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." 1 Samuel 3:11-14 NKJV

G. Prophecy fulfilled

So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. 11 Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. 1 Samuel 4:10-11 NKJV

Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years. 19 Now his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her. 20 And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, nor did she regard it. 21 Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." 1 Samuel 4:18-22 NKJV

Reality of Today

- Religious coldness
- Corruption
- Loss of glory
- All doing what is right in their own eyes

II. The story of Samuel has its very particular origin in the home of Elkanah.

A. Elkanah—"God created"

1. 2 wives

- a. Hannah—"favored of God"
- b. Peninnah—"fruitful woman"

2. Barrenness of Hannah

- a. Allowed for another wife
- b. Created jealousy/strife

B. Annual trip to "house of the Lord" brought issue to the surface

NOTE ALSO: Probably related to...

Then they said, "In fact, there is a yearly feast of the Lord in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah." Judges 21:19 NKJV

1. Double portions to Hannah

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2. Better than 10 sons—not enough for her

C. Day all of that boiled over

1. Praying in the tabernacle
2. Eli suspected drunkenness
3. Confession

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." 1 Samuel 1:11 NKJV

4. Promise confirmed

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. 1 Samuel 1:15-18 NKJV

III. The birth and dedication of Samuel paved the way for God's faithfulness.

A. Born

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." 1 Samuel 1:20 NKJV

B. Weaned

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." 1 Samuel 1:21-22 NKJV

C. Dedicated

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. 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. 1 Samuel 1:24-28 NKJV

So desperately need Samuels today!

- Godliness amidst corruption
- Light amidst darkness

IV. Hannah played an unmistakable role in the making of Samuel.

4 Keys

- A. She practiced a devotion to God that transformed pain into an opportunity to draw close to God.

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?" 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. 1 Samuel 1:8-10 NKJV

1. In bitterness of soul PRAYED
2. Not complaining to friends, gossiping, blaming another, or turn her back on God
3. She PRAYED—drew close to God in her pain

(ILL) Mom during glaucoma years

- B. She understood completely the unique value of a child as a gift from God.

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." 1 Samuel 1:11 NKJV

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. 1 Samuel 1:26-28 NKJV

1. God is source of that life—no one else but God
2. De-valuing of life today
3. She understood source/expectation—give this child to the Lord?

- C. She modeled a passionate surrender to the will of God

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1. Poured out soul before the Lord
2. Root=pour out something into something else
3. Surrender herself to His will
4. Later Samuel—Here I am!

(ILL) Mothers—your children see you surrender—they will someday

D. She pursued an intimacy with God that was unrivaled by religious form

1. Lord or Lord of Hosts—Yahweh—covenant name (11, 15, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28)
2. Eli?

Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." 1 Samuel 1:17 NKJV

“God of Israel”

IMPORTANT—So many reasons why Hannah should have never been instrumental in the plan of God

- Life treated her unfairly
- Others did not understand her plight

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?" 1 Samuel 1:8 NKJV

Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 1 Samuel 1:13 NKJV

- Her value to others has been discounted
- Her greatest desire has been denied her

BUT SHE PERSEVERED—A Samuel was made—she trusted God in the tough times

Conclusion: We need Samuels today!

- Godless culture
- Corrupt leadership
- Need for the anointing