



1

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Hannah
 - One of the two wives of Elkanah.
 - Had not been able to conceive but well treated by her husband.
 - Tormented by Elkanah's other wife.
 - On this occasion of the yearly pilgrimage to Shiloh she poured out her heart to God and made a vow that if He would give her a son, she would rear him as a Nazarite and give Him to God's service.

2

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Hannah
 - Eli, at first, misinterpreted her sorrow for drunkenness but when he realized her sincere distress, he sent her away with assurance that God would hear her prayer.
 - Hannah did conceive and bear a son and called his name Samuel. (Heard of God)

3

An observation

- Several women in the Bible are described as childless but then gave birth to pivot figures in God’s unfolding plan
 - Sarah (Isaac) Genesis 17-21
 - Rebecca (Esau and Jacob) Genesis 25:19-26
 - Rachel (Joseph) Genesis 29:31; 30:22-24
 - Manoah’s Wife (Samson) Judges 13
 - Hannah (Samuel) 1 Samuel 1
 - Elizabeth (John the Baptist) Luke 1:5-24

4

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Samuel
 - Kept at home until he was weaned.
 - Hannah had revealed to her husband Elkanah, her vow to give Samuel to the service of the LORD at the place of the Tent of Meeting and he was in support of it. (Numbers 30:10-12)
 - Samuel would have been about four years old when taken and left with Eli.

5

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Hannah’s psalm of praise
 - She praised Yahweh as her strength and salvation.
 - She praised God for holiness and faithfulness.
 - She eloquently stated what Peter concisely states in 1 Peter 5:5, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
 - The psalm ends with the prophetic utterance concerning kings in Israel. Her son Samuel would anoint the first two kings.

6

A plunge back into the chaotic darkness of the era of the Judges.

- The sons of Eli
 - Worthless men
 - Did not know the LORD
 - Contempt for the sacrifices
 - Appalling abuse of position
 - Blatant disregard for the Law of God
 - Unrepentant

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A plunge back into the chaotic darkness of the era of the Judges.

- Eli's response
 - A vague and toothless rebuke
 - Took no action

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A plunge back into the chaotic darkness of the era of the Judges.

- God's response
 - Sent a "man of God" with a message
 - "Man of God" usually denotes a prophet
 - First used in reference to Moses
 - Used to describe the visitation by God to Manoah and his wife. Judges 13
 - Used in reference to David. 2 Chronicles 8:14; Nehemiah 12:24,36
 - Paul addresses Timothy as a man of God in 1 Timothy 6:11

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A plunge back into the chaotic darkness of the era of the Judges.

- God’s response
 - Reminder of how God had established the house of Levi and especially the house of Aaron to serve before the altar of Yahweh.
 - Rebuke of how Eli had chosen his sons over Yahweh as they have mishandled the sacrifices and offerings.

10

A plunge back into the chaotic darkness of the era of the Judges.

- God’s response
 - God had promised that the house of Aaron would serve perpetually before Him but Eli’s house will be cut off. (see 1 Kings 2:26-27)
 - God will only spare one to grieve over what God has done.
 - Eli’s sons Hophni and Phinehas will die on the same day.
 - God will raise up a faithful priest and establish his house. This finds ultimate fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ.

11

A plunge back into the chaotic darkness of the era of the Judges.

- As we noted in the book of Ruth, the life of Samuel shines as a brilliant little gem in the darkness of these days.
 - He ministered to Yahweh in the presence of Eli. 2:11
 - His mother and father visited with him on their yearly trips to Shiloh. 2:18-19
 - God blessed Elkanah and Hannah with three sons and two daughters. 2:20-21
 - Samuel grew both in stature and in favor with Yahweh and with people. 2:26

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Lessons

- Position never equals relationship in God’s kingdom.
- Our highest loyalty must be to God.
- Another great reminder that through the darkest days God is advancing His plan.
