

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 1
BIRTH OF SAMUEL
1 SAMUEL 1:1-28
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13 – SEPTEMBER 18

As described in the book of Judges, the people of the tribes of Israel were morally adrift and engaged in lawlessness and moral relativism. Rather than following God's clear commandments of the Law, "*Everyone did what was right in his own eyes*" **Judges 21:25**. The priesthood was debased and wicked, and the people worshipped idols rather than the true and living God. It is into this corrupt world that God sovereignly provides Samuel, the prophet who separates the time of the judges from that of the kings over Israel.

The story of Samuel's birth and the circumstances of Samuel's family, especially Hannah, his mother, is the focus of chapter one. God is working through a barren woman, Hannah, who pours out her heart to God and trusts Him to provide her request for a child. God uses Hannah's request and her obedience to accomplish His great purposes in the flow of redemption of His people.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8 The Household God Chose

1. What in this section describes Elkanah and Hannah's devotion to the Lord?
2. Although polygamy was not God's intention for mankind (**Gen 2:24**) it was tolerated but never endorsed in Israel (**Dt.21:15-17**). Elkanah probably married Peninnah because Hannah barren.

Footnote, MacArthur Study Bible. Describe the interaction and tension between Elkanah, Peninnah and Hannah.

3. What verse displays God's sovereignty in this passage?
4. How does Elkanah show his love and care for Hannah?

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18 Hannah's Prayer Produces Peace

5. As a result of her deep sorrow and sadness described in **verse 8**, what does Hannah do?
6. In **verse 11**, Hannah makes her vow to "*Yahweh of hosts*". "This title emphasizes Yahweh as sovereign over all the powers in heaven and on earth, especially the armies of Israel." MacArthur Study Bible
For what does Hannah pray and what does this reveal about her faith and trust in the Lord?
7. What was Hannah's vow to Yahweh in **verse 11**?

8. What does **verse 12** reveal about Hannah's prayer life?
9. How does Eli make a quick judgment about Hannah in **verse 13 and 14**? What does this teach us about being hasty to make wrong assumptions about others?
10. How does Hannah demonstrate her humility in this interaction with Eli?
11. How does **verse 18** show the change in Hannah's sorrowful heart after praying and turning her pain and sadness to the Lord and receiving Eli's blessing?
12. How do the following verses show God's work in our lives when we cry out to Him in faith?
 - **Psalm 55:22**
 - **Philippians 4:6-7**
 - **1 Peter 5:7**
13. How does Hannah's example and the truths from the passages above encourage, challenge and comfort you?

Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28 Yahweh Answers Hannah's Plea – Hannah Fulfills Her Vow

14. From **verse 19**, before Elkanah and Hannah departed from Shiloh to return home, what did they do?
15. What do **verses 19 and 20** teach us about God's sovereign design and work within every family?
16. Elkanah and Hannah named the child "Samuel" which means "heard of God". How do Elkanah and Hannah respond to God's gracious provision of a son in verses **21-28**?
17. Read **Numbers 15:1-10** and **1 Samuel 1:24-25** and explain the actions of Elkanah and Hannah in their devotion to the Lord to fulfill every aspect of their vow to commit Samuel to a lifetime of service to the Lord.
18. As a parent or grandparent, how are you challenged by this narrative to pray for and devote your children or grandchildren to know and serve the Lord?
19. How has this passage encouraged and challenged you to trust God for every intimate issue of life and to bring your petitions and requests to Him?
20. How are you comforted in your present circumstances by God's sovereignty and His providential care for His people?

