

1st Samuel

Lesson 1

1st Samuel Chapters 1-3

Samuel Called to

Ministry



Two Themes For This Study

1. Follow God's Commands

2. Repent

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Around 1200-1050 B.C.
(according to the Book of Joshua)



Israel



<https://hikinginmap.blogspot.com/2019/05/map-of-middle-east-with-cities.html>

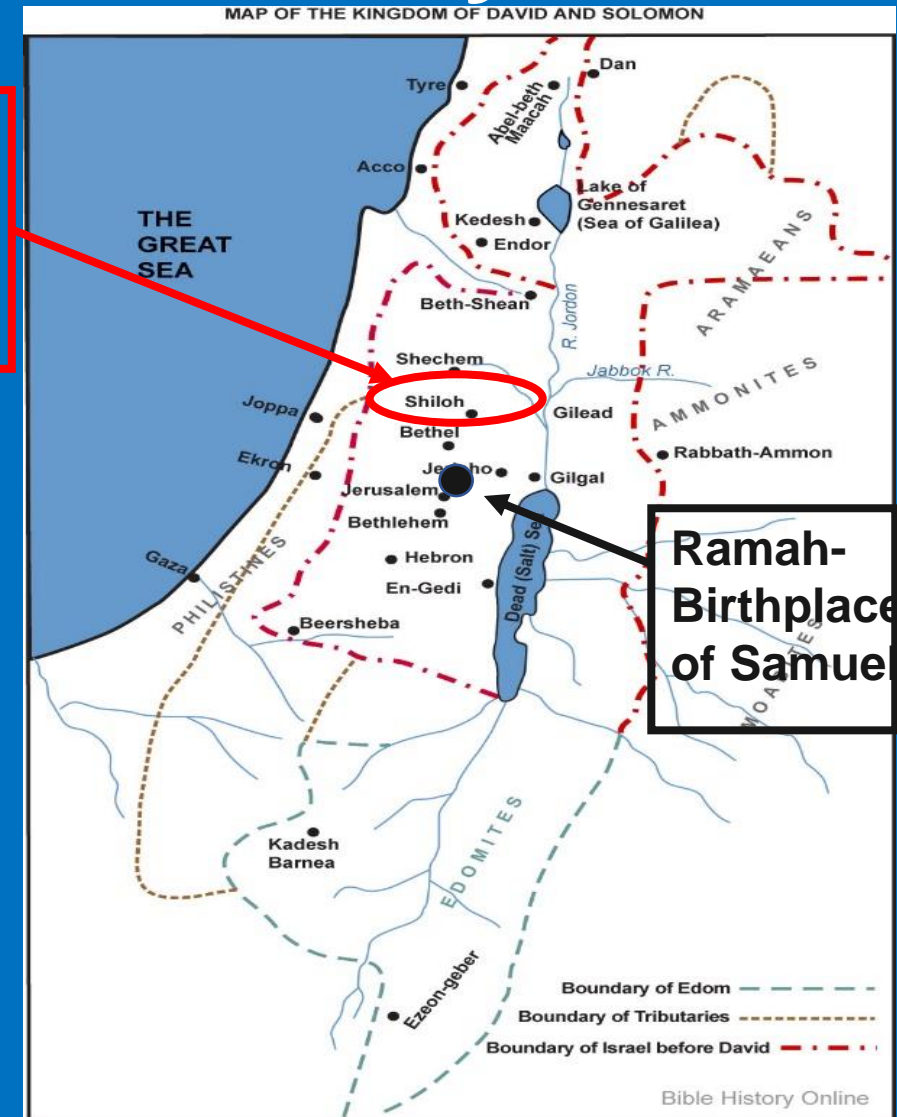
<https://stbarnabasible.wordpress.com/2013/03/19/the-twelve-tribes-of-israel/>

Lesson 1-Samuel Called to Ministry

1st Samuel Chapters 1-3 Background of 1st Samuel

- 1st and 2nd Samuel have Samuel's name attached to the books. Samuel reigned as Israel's last judge. Samuel may have written only the first part of the books since 1st Samuel chapter 25:1 records his death. []

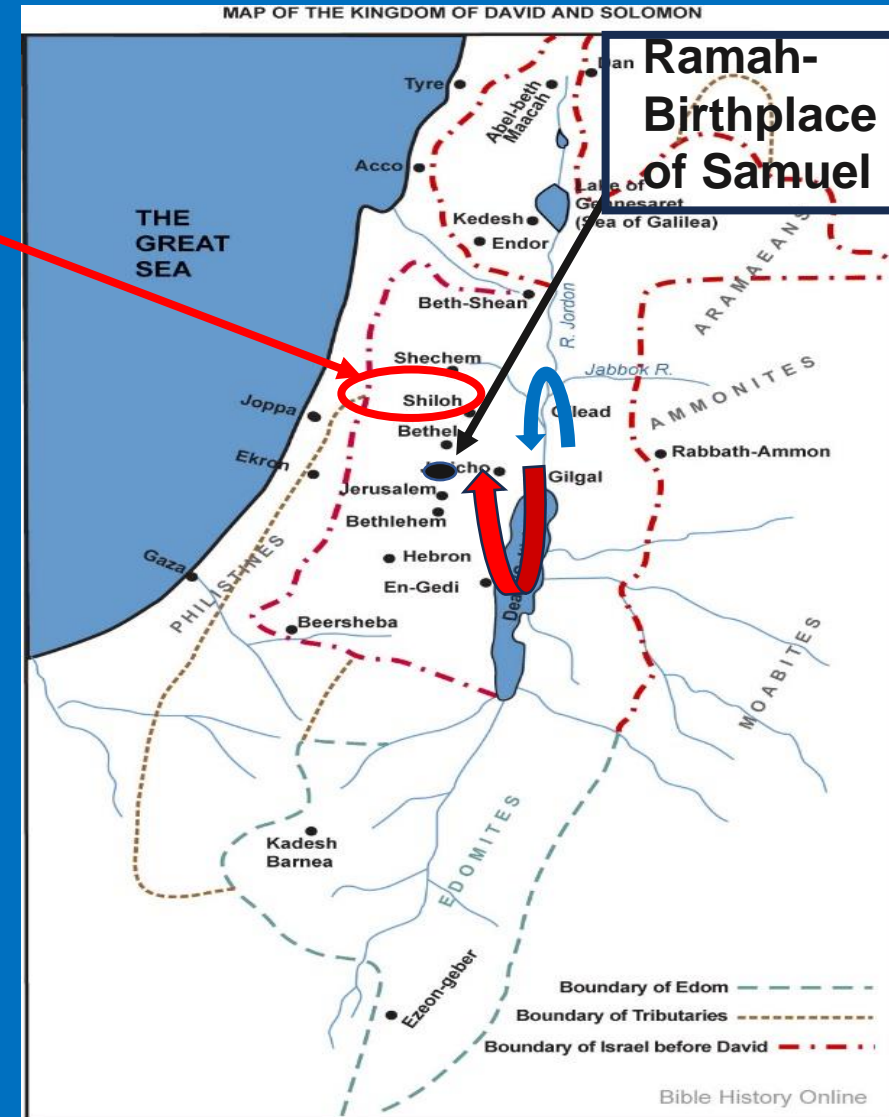
Shiloh-
Location
of Israel's
Tabernacle



Ramah-
Birthplace
of Samuel

- Perhaps Nathan and Gad wrote the remaining parts of the Samuels since 1st Chronicles 29:29 indicates they both wrote and chronicled the events of King David. []
- After Moses died, about 1405 B.C., **Joshua** was called upon to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Shiloh-
Location
of Israel's
Tabernacle

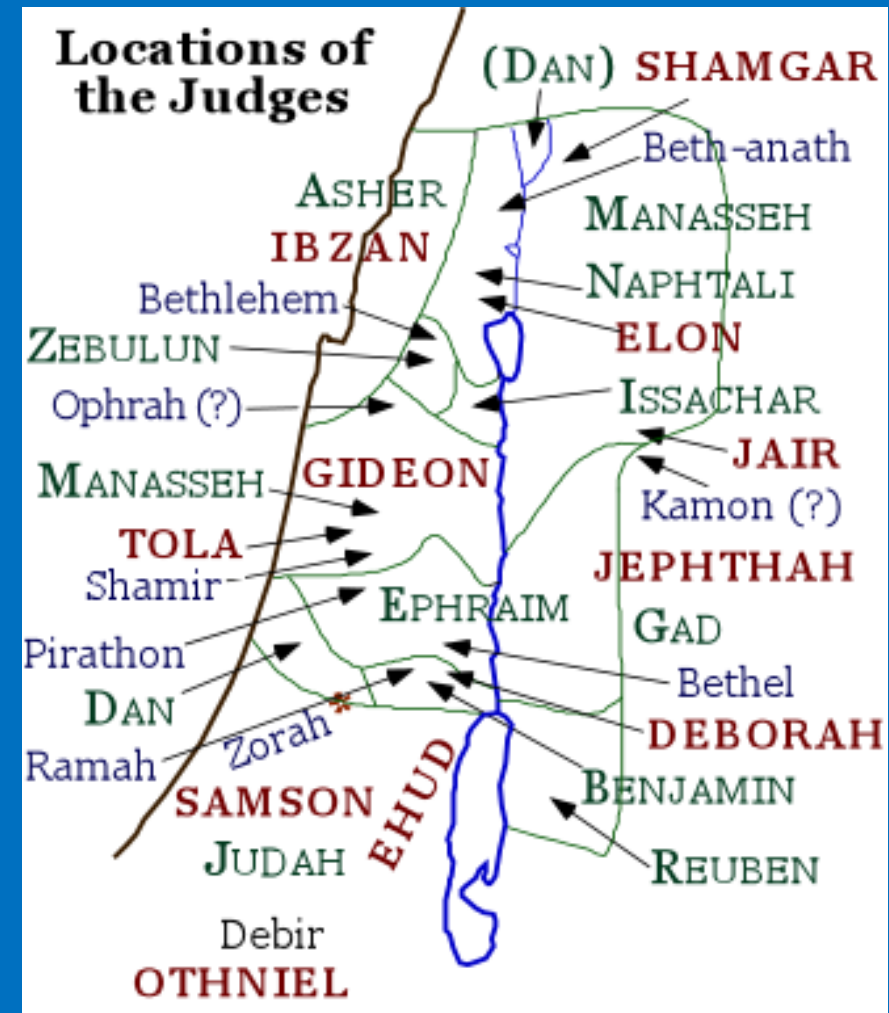


- Joshua, around 90 years old, conquered the heathen tribes of Canaan. Joshua led the Israelites from 1405-1385 B.C.
- From 1375-1025 B.C. (350 years), God provided Judges to Israel for military and civil leadership. Israel had a loose confederacy with no earthly king.

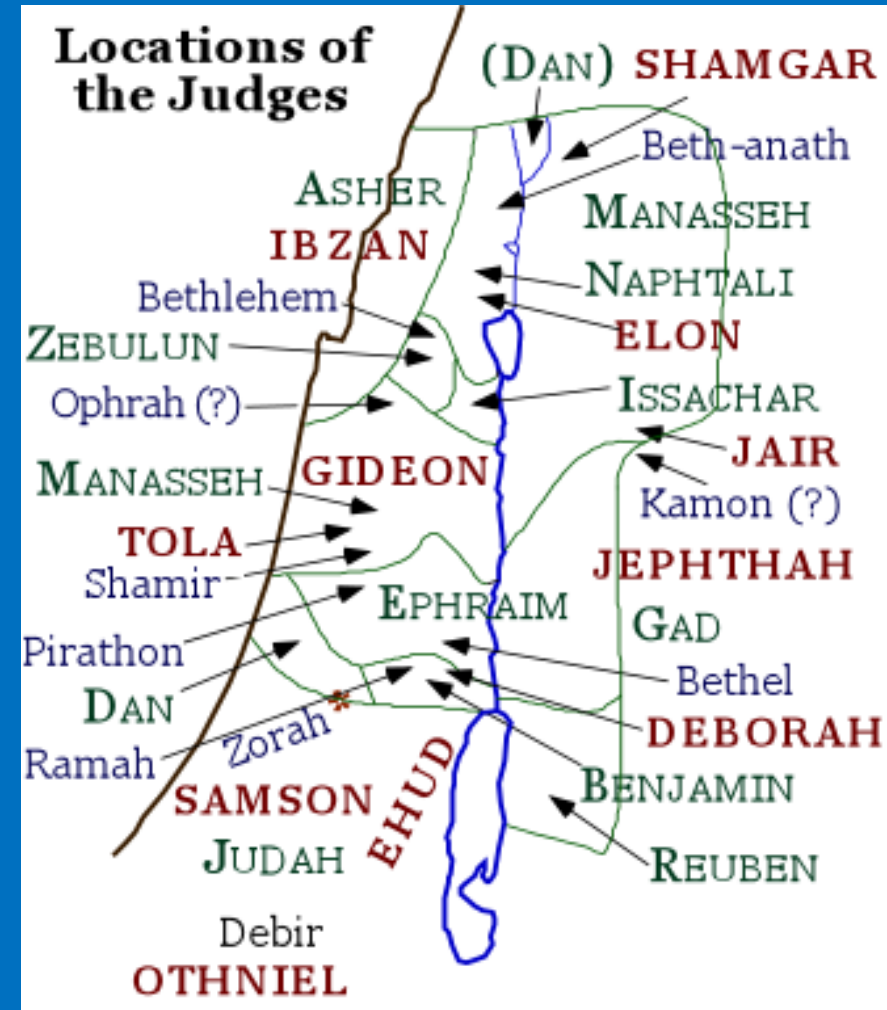


Joshua Leads the Children of Israel Into the Promised Land

- The time of the Judges brought God's mercy and favor upon Israel. However, when the Israelites disobeyed the law, oppression and death fell upon them.
- **Saul**, Israel's first king, instituted a monarchical reign (1050 BC).



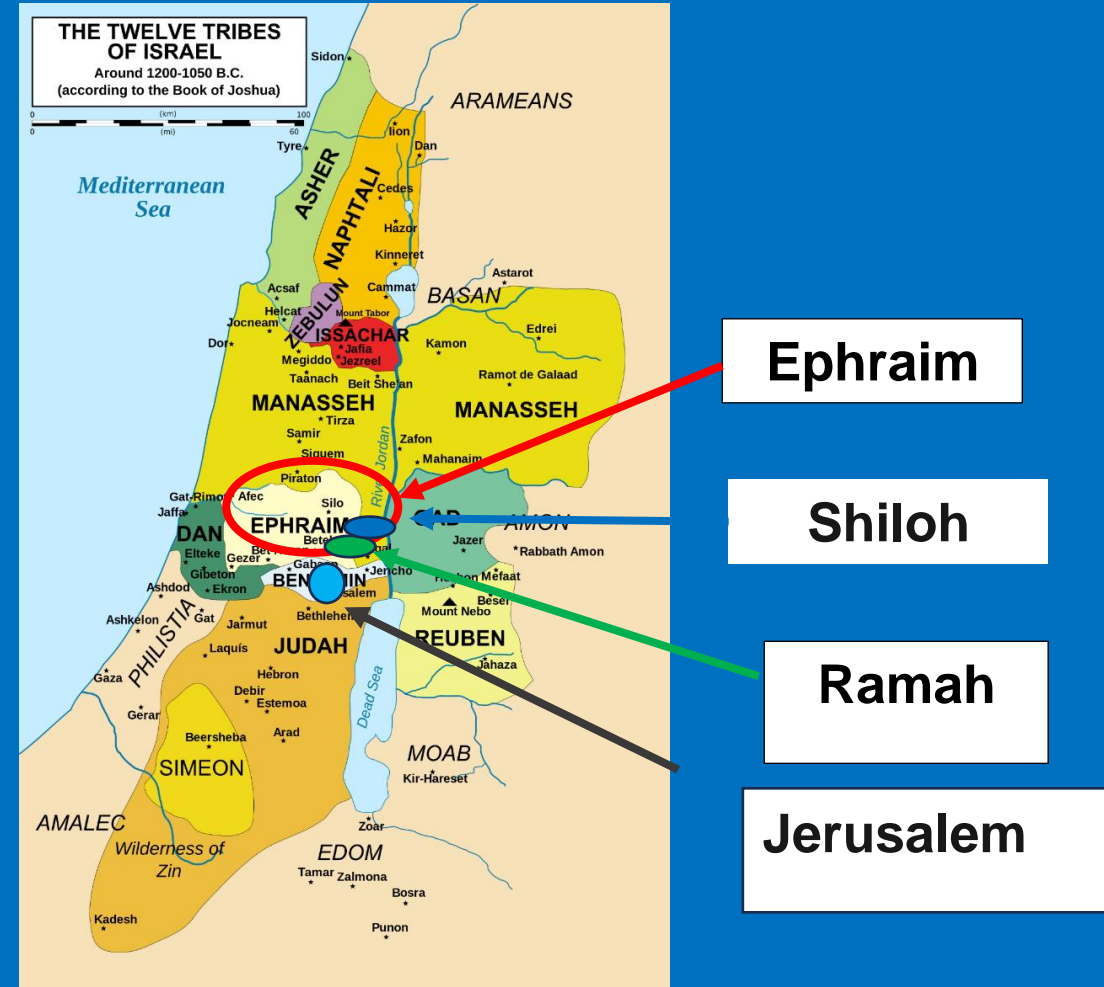
- The book of 1st Samuel chronicles the lives of: Samuel, King Saul, Jonathan, and the early years of David.



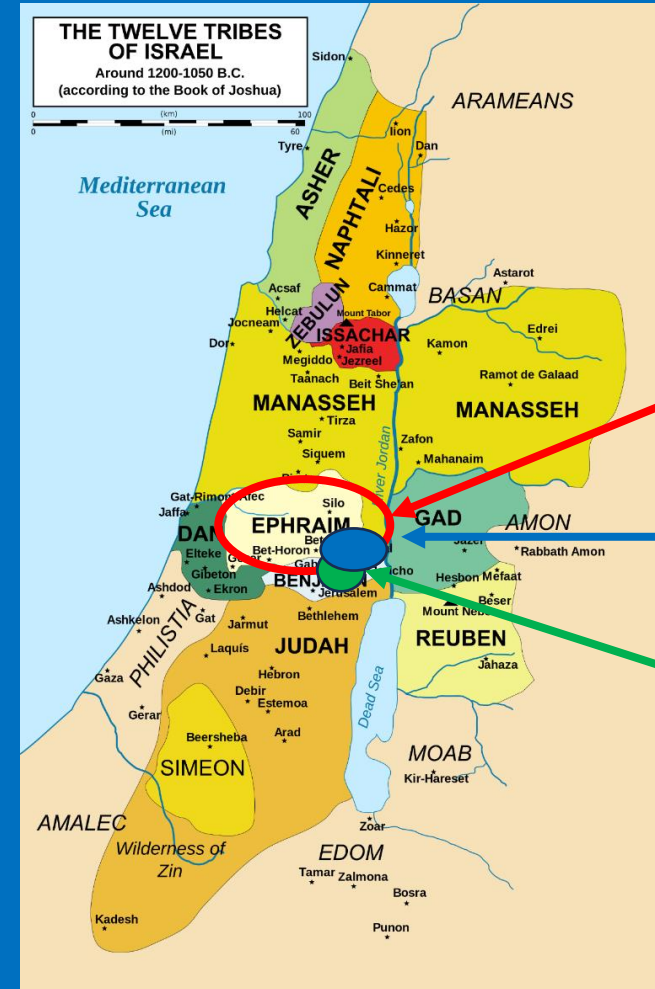
Chapter 1-The Birth of Samuel-1085 B.C

Vs. 1-8-Background of Elkanah, Hannah, and Peninnah []

- A man by the name of Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah [pa-nee-na]. []
- Elkanah, a Levite, lived in the city of Ramah within the hill country of Ephraim located five miles north of Jerusalem.



- Peninnah could have children, however, Hannah could not have children.

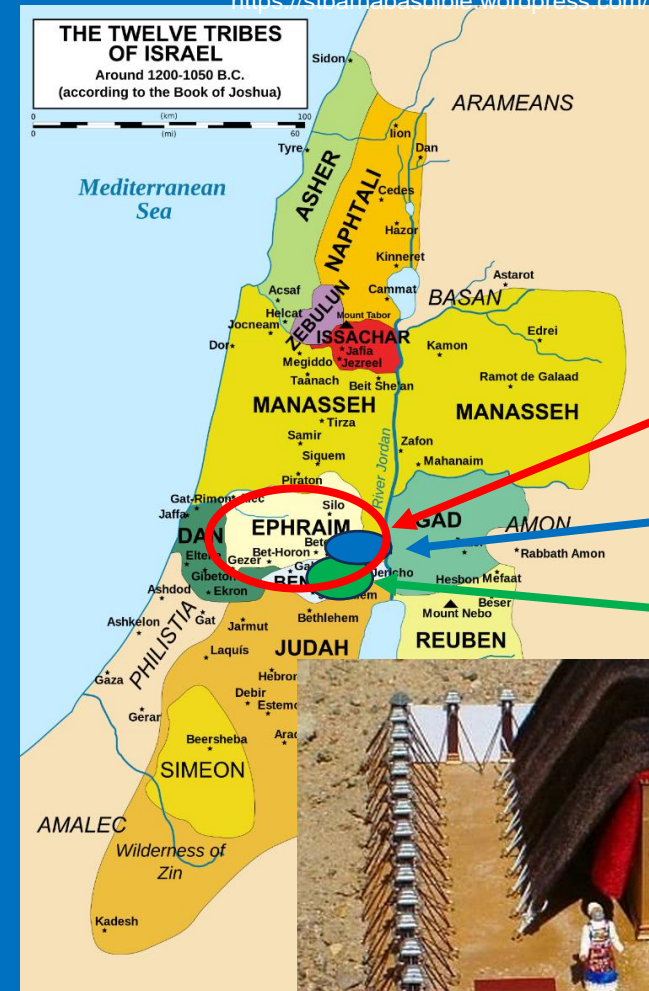


Ephraim

Shiloh

Ramah

- Three times a year, every male Israelite was required to appear at the tabernacle for three festivals: Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Booths (Exodus 23:14-17). []
- Elkanah, by law, had to attend the tabernacle located at Shiloh (about 15 miles away).



Ephraim

Shiloh

Ramah



- Recent archaeology has confirmed many bones at the ancient site of Shiloh, thus confirming the sacrificial system.
- Peninnah would provoke Hannah for not having children. As a result, Elkanah gave double portions of the sacrifice to Hannah for he loved her more.



<https://awalkintheword.wordpress.com/tag/jewish-tabernacle/>

- Hannah, distraught over Peninnah's provocation, refused to eat during her last pilgrimage.
- Trying to comfort Hannah, Elkanah asked if he was not better than 10 sons? (He didn't really get the problem).



Vs. 9-18-Hannah Petitions the Lord for a Son []

- While Eli sat on the seat by the doorpost of the temple (tabernacle), he observed Hannah praying and weeping.
- Hannah vowed that if the Lord of hosts would give her a child, she would dedicate the child to the Lord all the days of his life. She also vowed that her son would live as a **Nazirite**.



- A Nazirite, a person specifically dedicated to the Lord, could never cut their hair (Samson was a Nazirite).
- Since only Hannah's lips moved and no audible words spoken, Eli thought she was drunk and rebuked her.

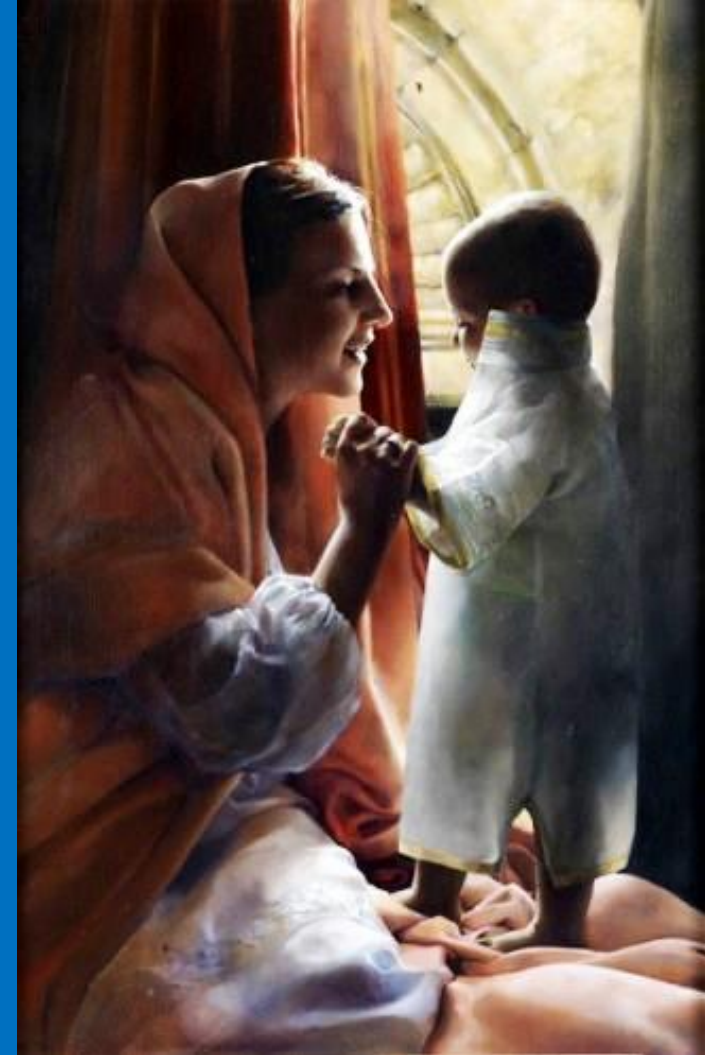


- After explaining Hannah's intent in petitioning the Lord, Eli blessed her and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him."
- Hanna went home no longer sad for she **believed** Eli's words. (Zechariah 4:6; James 1:2-8; Romans 10:17) []

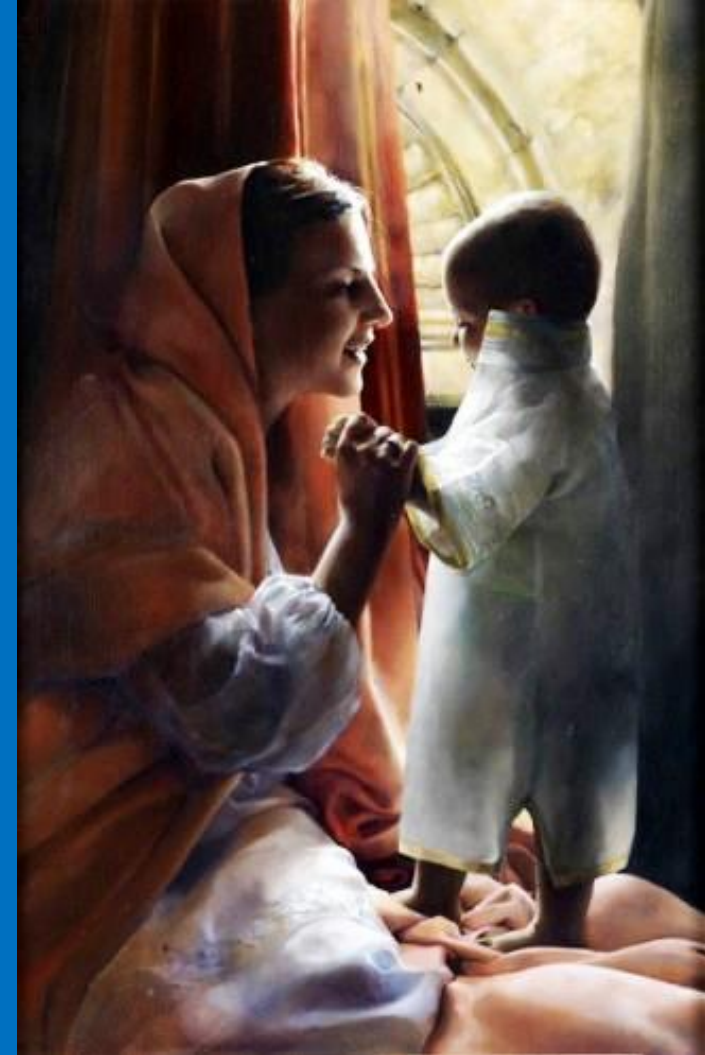


Vs. 19-28-Hannah has a Son []

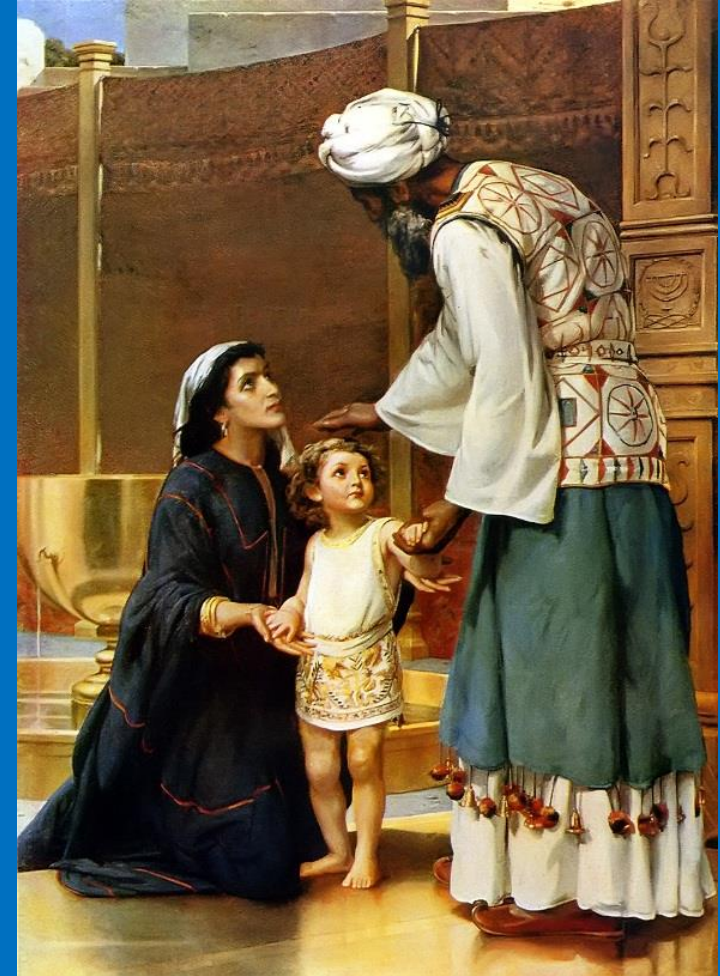
- As time passed, Hannah had a son which she named **Samuel**. Samuel means “name of God.” His name served as a continual reminder of God’s mercy toward those who call upon the Lord (Psalm 139:113-16). []



- Hannah decided not to attend the next mandated feast but told Elkanah she would go after she had weaned the child.
- Hannah and Elkanah remained true in keeping Hannah's vow.
- An interesting note, Elkanah agreed to Hannah's wishes.



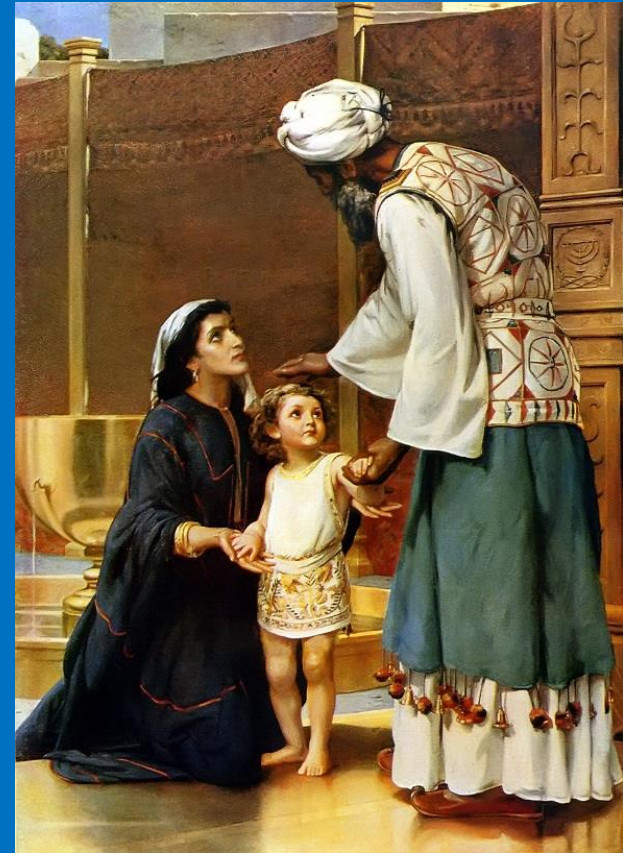
- After weaning Samuel, Hannah brought the child to Eli and dedicated him to the Lord.
- This dedication meant that Samuel would live his life as the Lord's servant and would grow up under the guidance of Eli.



<http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/hannah/>

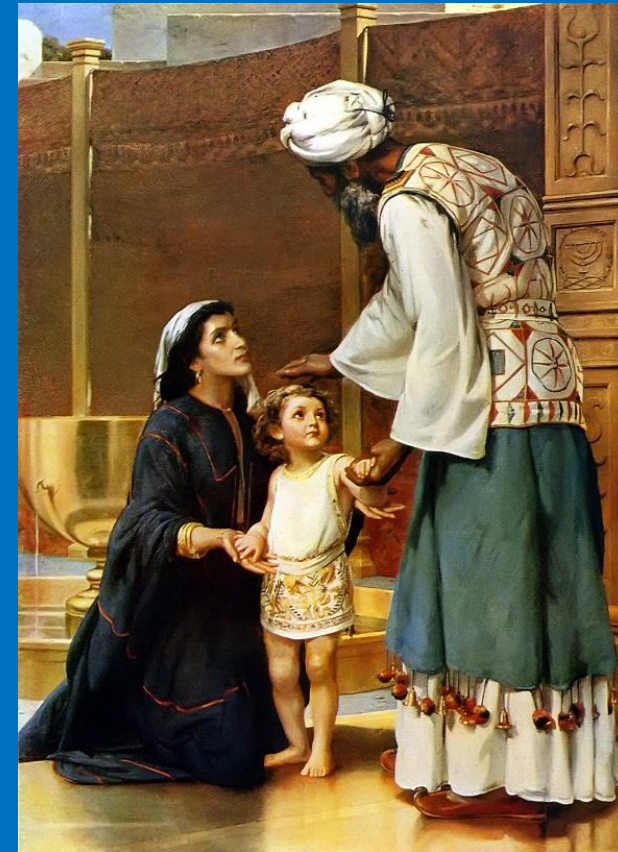
Chapter 2-Samuel's Ministry at Shiloh

- Vs.1-10-Hannah's Song to the Lord []
- After dedicating Samuel to the Lord and giving him to Eli, Hannah sang a praise song to God. Some of the phrases included:



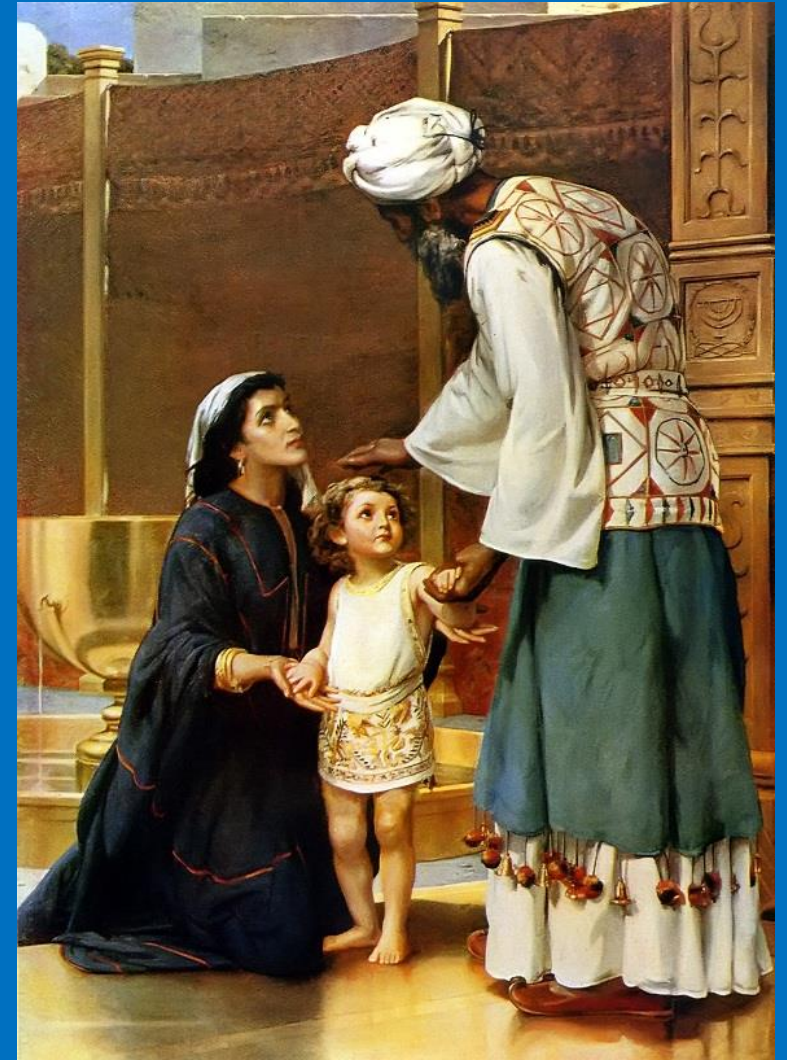
<http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/hannah/>

- “My heart exults in the Lord”
- “I rejoice in Your salvation”
- “The feeble gird on strength”
- “Those who were hungry cease to hunger”
- “Not by might shall a man prevail”



<http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/hannah/>

- “And He will give strength to His king [messiah] and will exalt the horn of His anointed.
- Mary’s Magnificat contains many of these themes (Luke 1:46-56). []



Vs. 12-17-God Judges Eli

[]

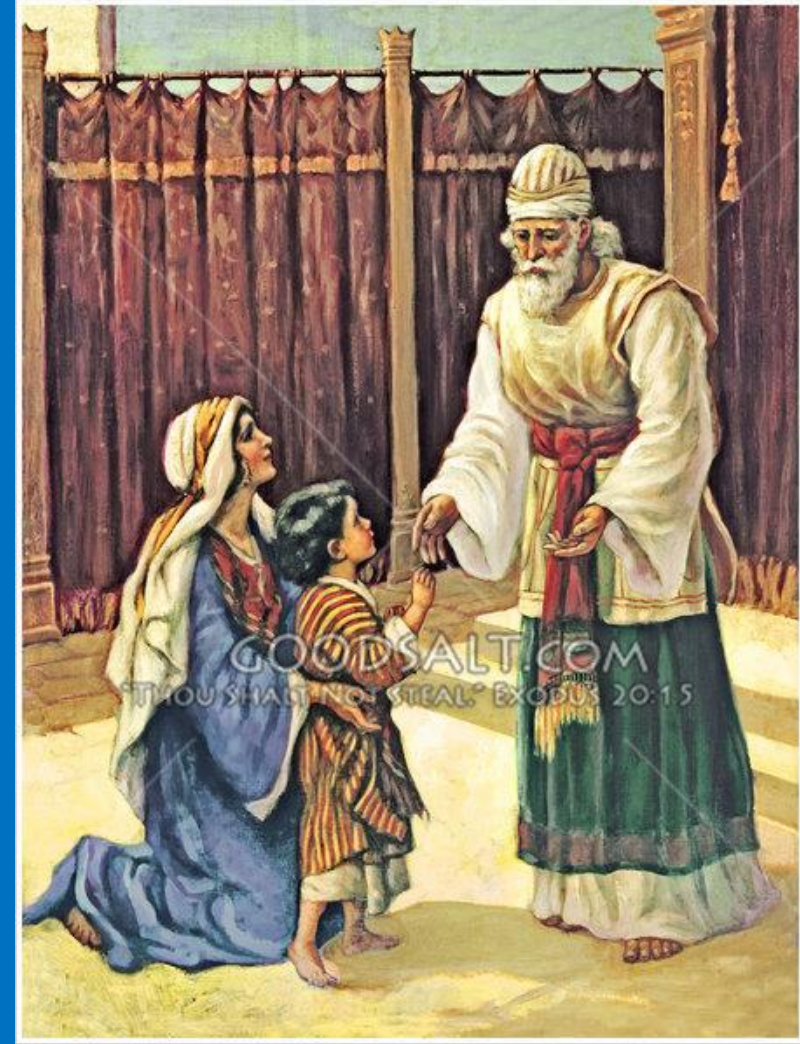
- Eli had two very **sinful** sons, Hophni [hof-nee; and Phinehas [fin-yas].
- Translation indicates them as “sons of Belial” or wicked men. 2 Corinthians 6:15 uses this name for Satan. []



- Eli's sons would steal from the offerings and would take for themselves.
- The sons had sexual relations with the women who came to the tabernacle. *[No repentance]*



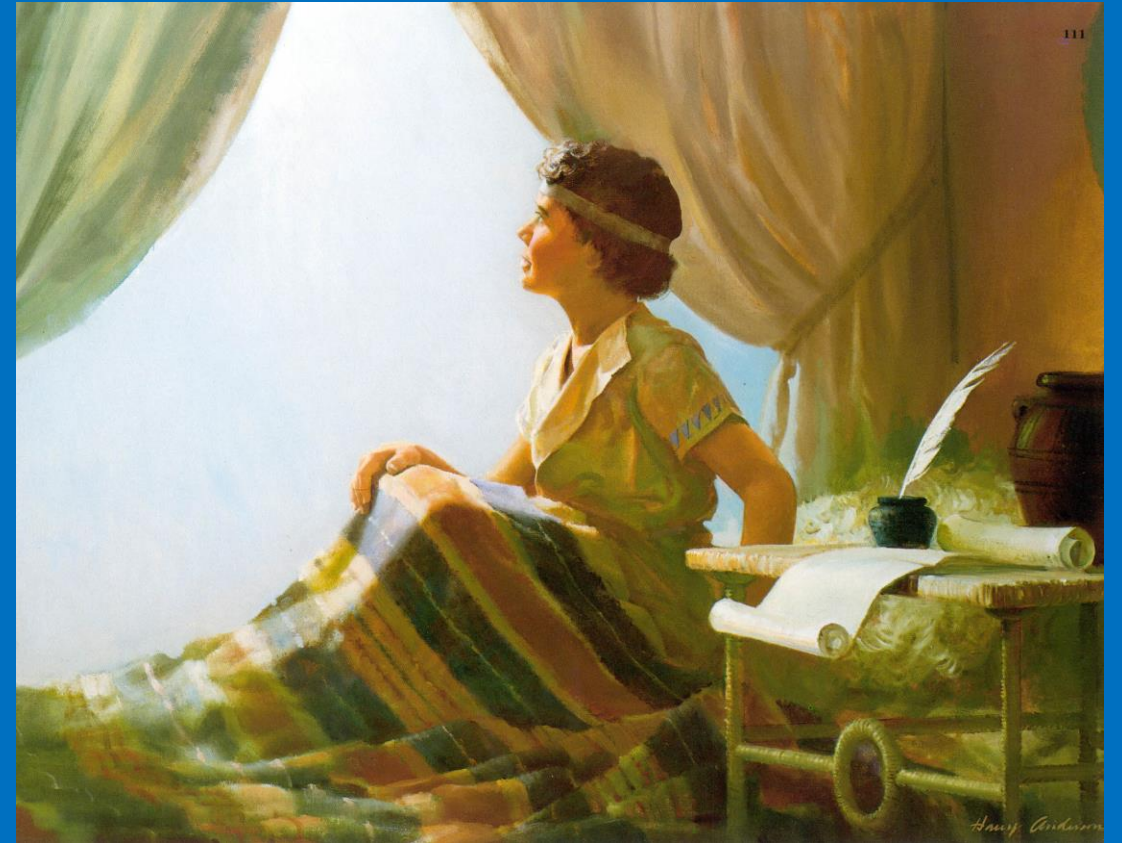
- Each year when Hannah came for the yearly sacrifice, she would bring Samuel a little hand-made robe. Because of the Lord's favor, He blessed Hannah with **three** more sons and **two** daughters (this would make a great time to give a lesson on tithing-lol Malachi 3:10).
- Samuel stayed at the tabernacle and grew before the Lord.



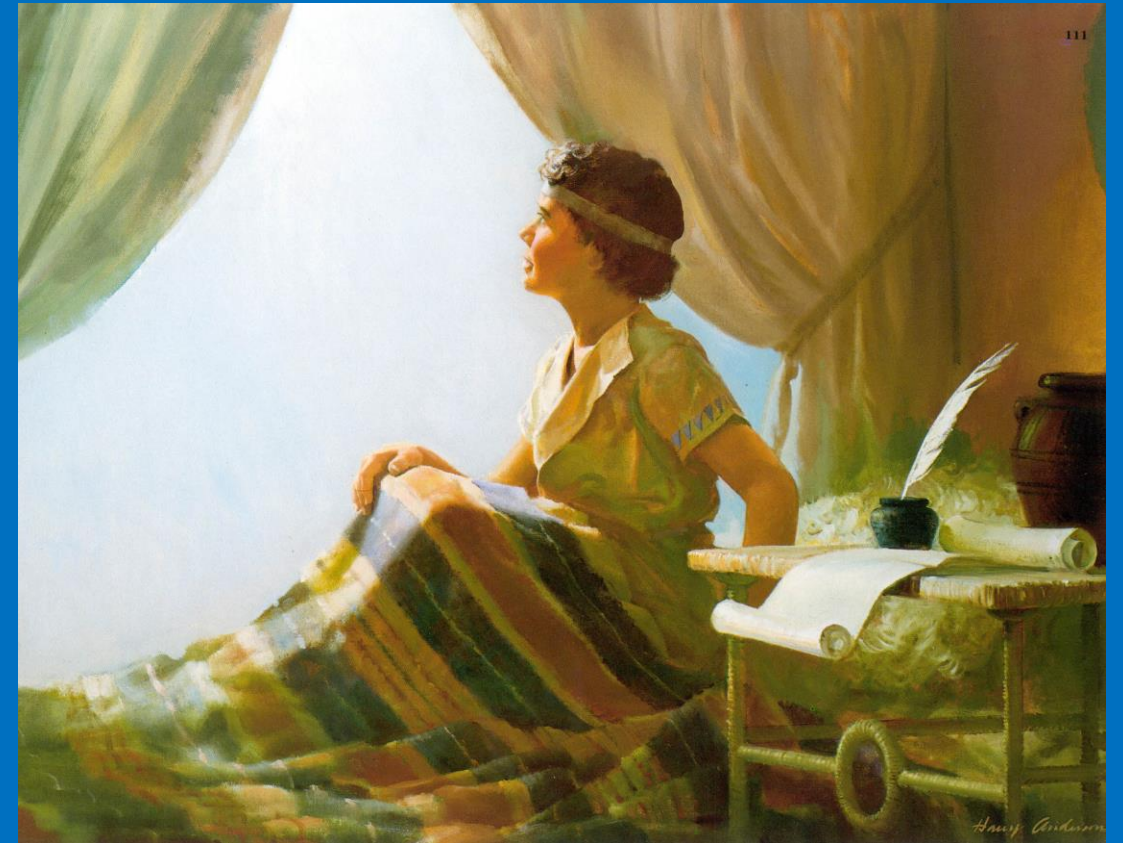
Chapter 3-God Calls Samuel to Service

Vs. 1-14-Samuel Hears God's Voice []

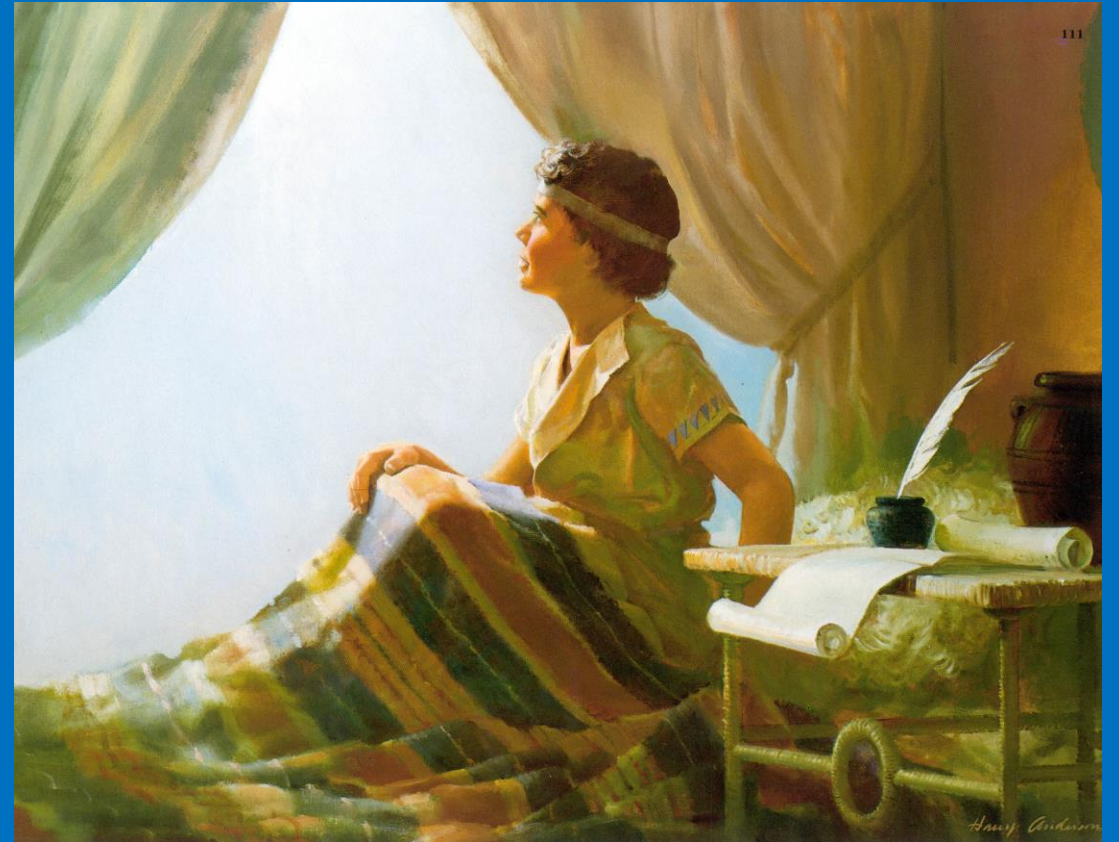
- Samuel grew and ministered before the Lord.
- Due to the sins of Israel, the Lord **rarely** spoke to the people.

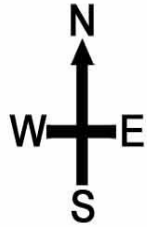


- Vs 2 indicates Eli laid down some time before the lamp of God went out.
- The lampstand stood in the Holy place. The priest filled the lamp with oil at twilight and kept it burning until morning.
- Apparently, this incident took place sometime just before dawn.



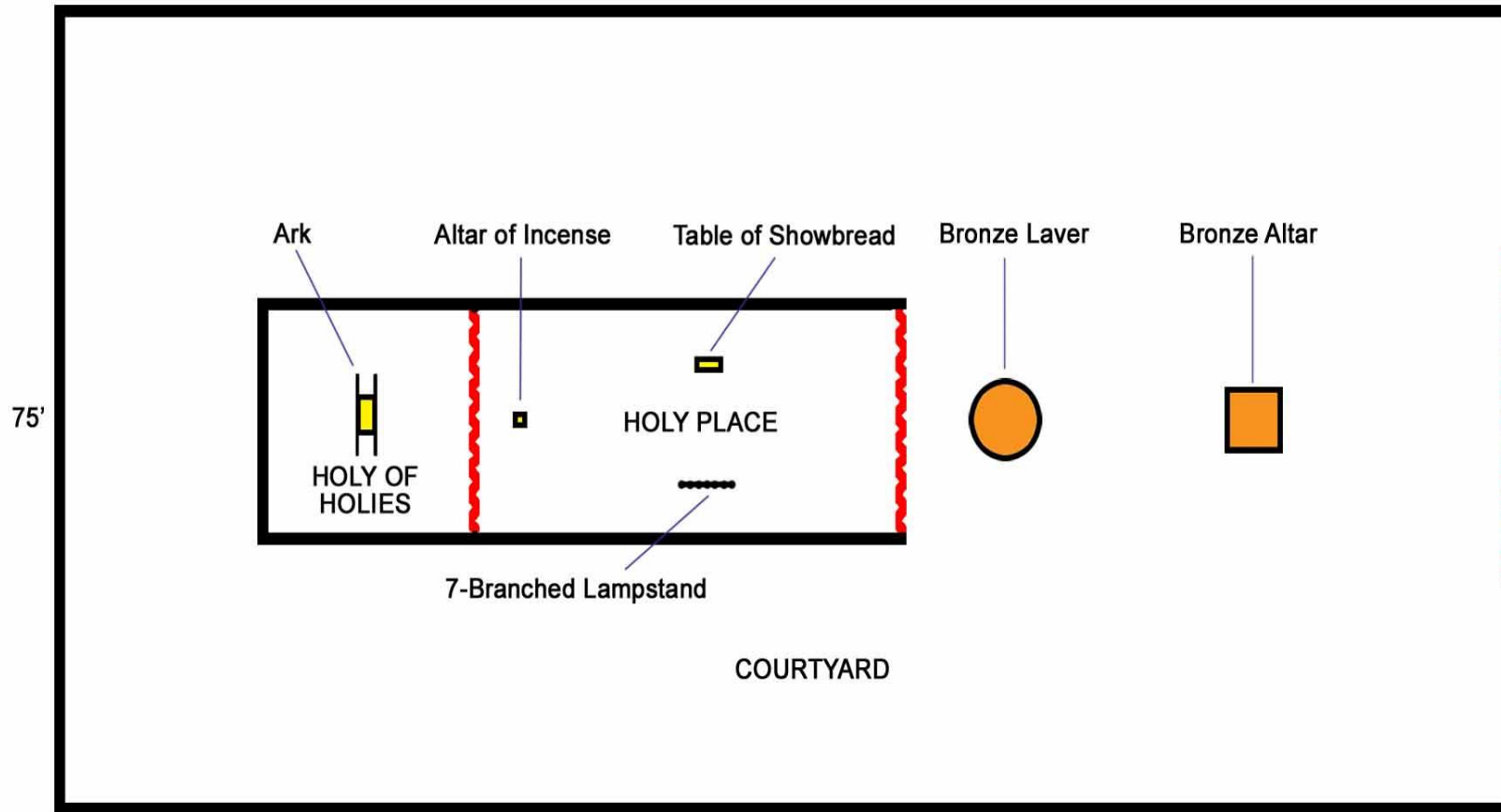
- During these [*morning hours*], God spoke to Samuel.
- It is interesting to note that Samuel apparently slept in the Holy Place when God called him.





Tabernacle Complex

150'

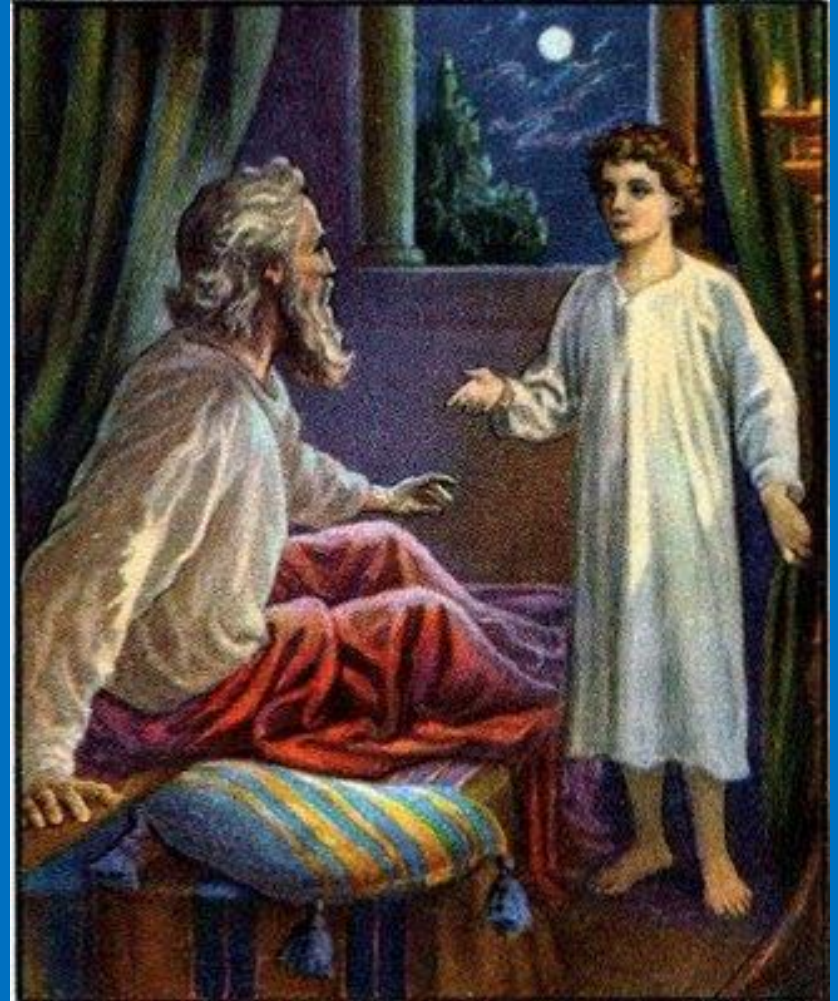


75'

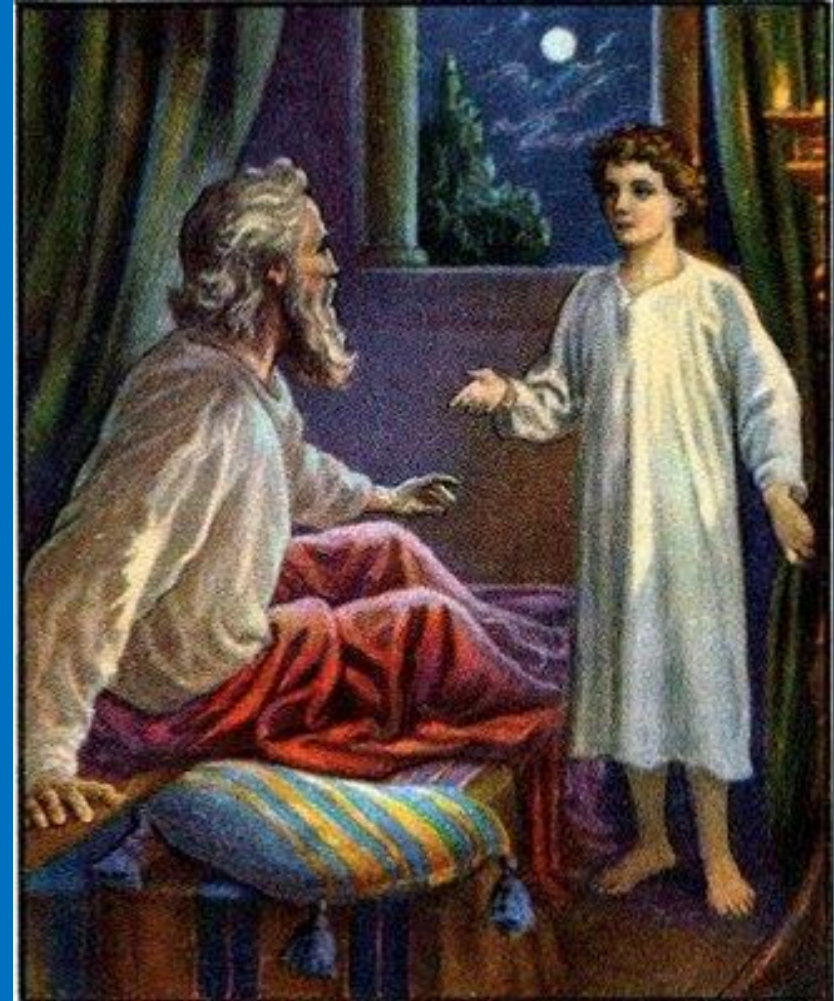
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<http://pixshark.com/tabernacle-of-moses-layout.htm>

- God called to Samuel three times. Thinking Eli had called, Samuel went to him.
- By the third time, Eli realized that God had spoken to Samuel. Eli told Samuel the next time he heard the voice he should reply, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.”



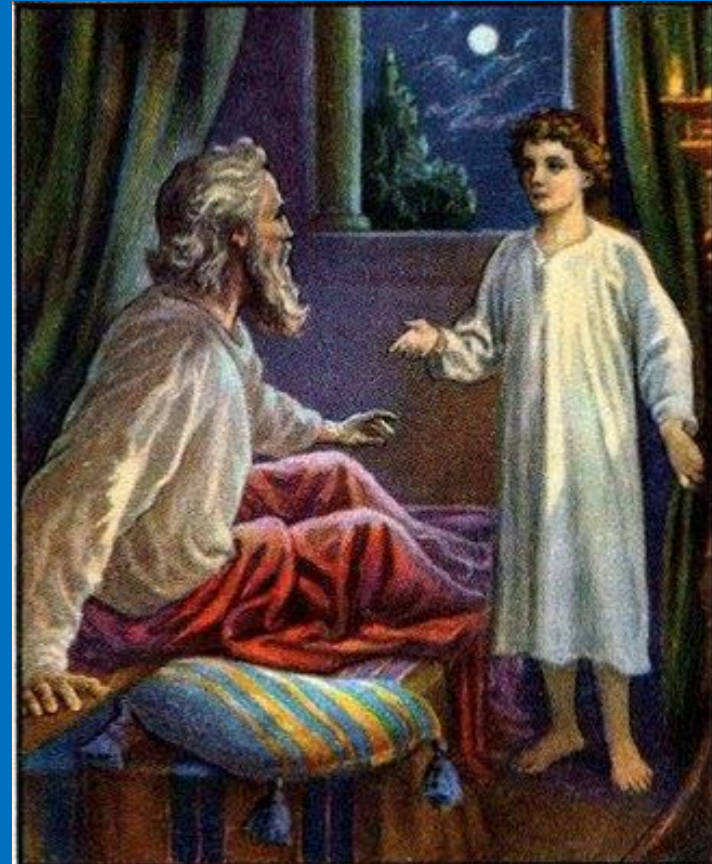
- God told Samuel judgment would fall upon the House of Eli due to the iniquity of his sons and Eli's lack of correction.



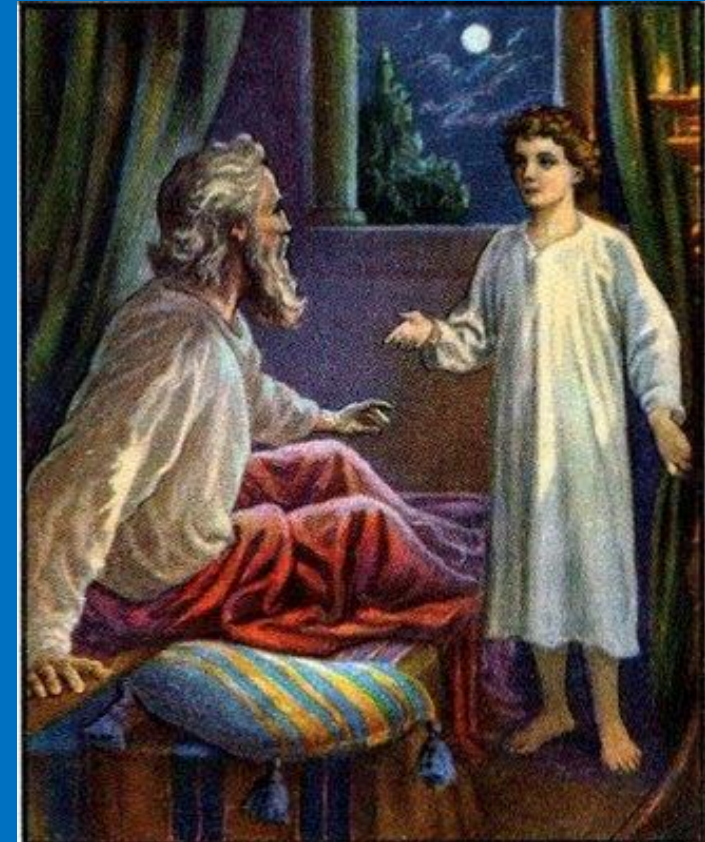
Vs. 16-21-Samuel Tells Eli About the Prophecy

[]

- When the morning hours came, Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had said.
- Eli recognized the Lord had spoken, and he **accepted** God's word.
[Apparently no repentance]
- Samuel continued to grow with the Lord's blessing upon him.



- The Lord spoke through Samuel and all his words came to pass. As a result, all Israel realized the Lord had confirmed Samuel as a prophet.
- *An impact happens in a person's life when we allow the Lord to speak through us. Either rejection or acceptance.*



<http://downtownmonks.blogspot.com/2009/06/god-of-samuel.html>

Summary

Psalm 103:8 states, “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.” God loves us, understands our weaknesses, our sins, and our anxieties. He does not want to punish us for our failures but to respond quickly when we turn to him and repent. God desires us to approach Him with confidence and to seek Him as a refuge and a place of great comfort. God intends for us to prosper and not to perish.

1. Follow God’s Laws
2. Repent

[End---]

1st Chronicles 29:29

29 Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet and in the chronicles of Gad the seer...[]

Zechariah 4:6

6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

Over---

James 1:2-8

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Over---

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Next---

What does James mean by faith? Is it positive thinking?
(Acts 6:7; Romans 1:1-6)

Acts 6:7

7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Over---

Romans 6:1-6

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power or as a result of by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ...[Next]

Faith can be used to mean coming into the fellowship of Christ.

Now what does being “doubled-mined” mean in James 1:7-8?

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 *being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Next---

Read how James defines double-minded in chapter 4:8:

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Over---

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "Or The spirit which He has made to dwell in us lusts with envy He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you **double-minded**. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

[Next---]

To be “double-minded” means to be an **unbeliever** with one foot in unbelief and the other foot thinking about salvation.

Over---

- To sum up-What is faith? It is a supernatural belief in God that can only be acquired through the Holy Spirit. We can not manufacture it; it does not materialize through positive thinking, confession, or physical acts. The Holy Spirit imparts faith into the heart of a person seeking salvation through grace. A Christian lives their life by faith as they grow in spiritual maturity. If we lack faith we ask God for it and humbly accept the portion that He gives. []

2 Corinthians 6:15

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial (devil), or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? []

Exodus 23:14-17

14 “Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me.
15 You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread [Began on the evening of Passover]; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.

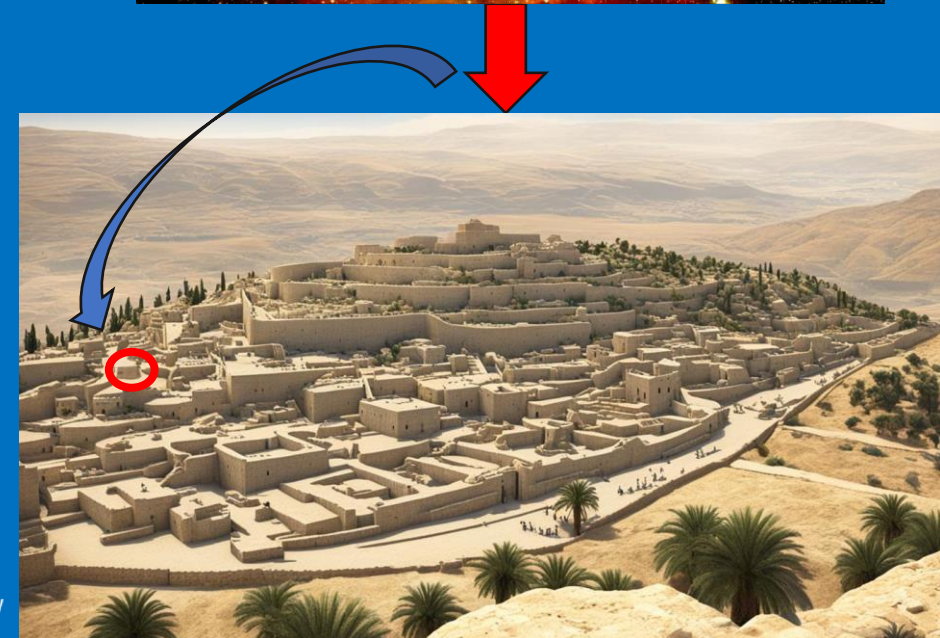
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16 Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits [Pentecost] of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering [Feast of Booths] at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. 17 Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord God. []

1st Samuel 1:1-8

1 Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim (Rama-thi-eem-so-feem. from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu [Tow-who], the son of Zuph [Zu-ph], an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah [pa-nee-na]; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. [Over--]

[]



3 Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. [*We do not know the name of this sacrifice-page 8 in workbook*] And the two sons of Eli, Hophni [Hof-ne] and Phinehas [fin-a-us] were priests to the Lord there. 4 When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah [pa-nee-na] his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; 5 but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb.

Over---

7 It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat. 8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?” []

1st 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.”

Over---

12 Now it came about, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli was watching her mouth. 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. 14 Then Eli said to her, “How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you.” 15 But Hannah replied, “No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the Lord.

Over---

16 Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman , for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.” 17 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.” 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. []

1st Samuel 19-28

19 Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. 20 It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord." 21 Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord and stay there forever."

Over---

23 Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you. Remain until you have weaned him; only may the Lord confirm His word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. 24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, [*to fulfill a vow*] and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, although the child was young. []

25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli. 26 She said, "Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. 27 For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. 28 So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there. []

1st Samuel

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.

Over---

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.

Over---

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. []

1st Samuel 2:12-17

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.

Over---

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. []

1st Samuel 3:1-14

1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord before Eli. And word from the Lord was rare in those days, visions were infrequent. 2 It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well), 3 and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was, 4 that the Lord called Samuel; and he said, "Here I am."

Over---

5 Then he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, lie down again.” So he went and lay down. 6 The Lord called yet again, “Samuel!” So Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he answered, “I did not call, my son, lie down again.” 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor had the word of the Lord yet been revealed to him. 8 So the Lord called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli discerned that the Lord was calling the boy.

Over---

9 And Eli said to Samuel, “Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” 11 The Lord said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

Over---

12 In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever **for the iniquity which he knew**, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. 14 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.”

“for the iniquity which he knew” (Romans 1:18-20)

Over---

- 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. []

1st Samuel 3:15-21

15 So Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. But Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." 17 He said, "What is the word that He spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the words that He spoke to you."

Over---

18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord; let Him do what seems good to Him." 19 Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fail. 20 All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. 21 And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, because the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord. []

Luke 1:46-56

46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave...50 And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. 51 He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. []

1st Samuel 25:1

1 Then Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah. []

Romans 10:17

7 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. []