

1st Samuel Chapter 2

V: 1-10 Hannah prays in the presence of Eli, Elkanah, her family, and whoever is present as they are presenting Samuel to Eli – she’s praying publicly with a doxology of praise to the Lord.

- In Luke chapter 2 we a prayer referred to as the “Magnificat of Mary” which is a recording Mary’s prayer and praise to the Lord after her encounter with her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist, seeing the fulfillment of the prophecy of God, the Word of God.
- It gives us a glimpse into the character and person of Mary and her devotion to God; this prayer of Hannah does the same thing.
- My horn is exalted in the Lord – God has blessed me!
- My mouth is enlarged over mine enemies – my voice has prevailed over those who spoke against me.
- Rejoicing in her salvation – looking forward to the Messiah, to Jesus.

V: 2 This is classical Hebrew poetry, it is a “repetitive parallelism” – the poetry is in the idea expressed as opposed to the sound of the words. The same idea being expressed through different words or examples.

- There is no God like our God – He is incomparable.

Isaiah 40:25 “To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? Saith the Holy One.”

- There is no one like our God!

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His Redeemer the Lord of Hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.”

- There is no Rock like our God: Jesus is that Rock.

Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:

Daniel 2:31-34 “³¹Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. ³²This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, ³³his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. ³⁴Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.”

That Rock is Jesus:

Matthew 16:18 “... and upon this rock I will build My church...”

- What Rock? The confession by Peter:

Matthew 16:16 "... thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

V: 3 No doubt a reference to Peninnah who had been her adversary and critic over the years.

- God judges justly, He weighs the actions of men.

V: 4 No more dart or arrows from Penninah, He breaks the power of the mighty, they are humbled, but He strengthens the weak.

V: 5 Those that were full and had no lack, have hired themselves out for food; those that were hungry are no longer so.

- The barren, speaking of herself, have born "seven" – are now complete, having born a son that is dedicated to the Lord.
- She that had many children, Peninnah – has been weakened.

V: 6 There is a prophetic element to this prayer: "*The Lord killeth, and maketh alive:* (Speaking of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.) *He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.*" – That's Jesus!

V: 7 "The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich:

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

"... *He bringeth low and lifteth up...*" these are all marvelous prophecies about Jesus!

Philippians 2:8-9 "⁸And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name."

V: 8 This is what Jesus does for us, he takes us from the dunghill, where the Lord of the flies, Beezelbub is in charge, meaning hell – and he lifts us up sets us among the princes where we inherit the throne of glory – the throne room of God in heaven itself!

- Describing the work of God's grace in our lives – who's speaking this prayer? Hannah – Grace.

- Re pillars: Hannah knew that the foundations of the earth itself belong to the Lord.

V: 9-10 Keeping the feet of His saints; they won't slip or fall.

Psalm 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

Psalm 119:133 "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."

- For by strength shall no man prevail:

Zechariah 4:6 "... not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

- God enemies shall be destroyed, He will be victorious!
- He shall give strength to His King – a prophetic word for as yet Israel had not had a king. Short term, king David, long term – His anointed, anointed in Hebrew is Meshiak or Messiah or in Greek = Christos, speaking of King Jesus!

V: 11 Elkanah and his family return to Ramah, leaving Samuel to serve the Lord under Eli the priest.

V: 12 Hophni and Phinehas are described as sons of Belial (Satan) – wicked men who did not know the Lord.

Romans 8:8 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

V: 13-17 The Lord was supposed to get the first portion, whether the fat or the actual meat for the offering, then the priest, then the people making the offering.

- The priests were to receive the breast or the shoulder. They might have wanted to cook it different, but there is a possibility that they were selling the raw meat and keeping the money for themselves.
- In either event they would come and take of the offering by force if need be.
- Their sin was great before the Lord causing worshippers not to want to worship.
- They were misrepresenting God on a continual basis.

Ezekiel 34:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

Malachi 2:8 “But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts.”

1 Peter 5:2-3 ²“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind: ³neither as being lords over God’s heritage but being examples to the flock.”

- Pastors are held to a higher standard.

James 3:1 “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

V: 18-19 “But” / contrast – Samuel on the other hand – he served the Lord, wearing the garments of the priests and every year Hannah brought him a new coat.

V: 20-21 Eli pronounced a blessing upon Elkanah and Hannah, Eli pronounced it but God delivered it and Hannah bears 3 sons and 2 daughters. (5/grace)

- Bottom line is that we can’t out give God.

Psalm 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give the desires of thine heart.”

- Samuel grew before the Lord.

V: 22-25 Eli heard the reports, he went so far as to confront his sons – but he took no action.

- The law was very clear about this – they should have died for their sins.

Leviticus 18:29 “For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.”

- Because Eli won’t do what is right, eventually God will, that is His intent.

V: 26 In the mean time God is preparing Samuel who is growing in favor with God and with men.

Psalm 1:1-3 ¹“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doeth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

V: 27-28 Seemingly God doesn't judge without first sending a warning – and here is that warning from a man of God, a prophet sent to warn God's people.

- The prophet walks him through his family history in a sense asking him in the process from whence are thou fallen...?

V: 29-30 Why do you show contempt and dis-respect?

- Through your disobedience, you honor your sons above Me, allowing them to take the first and the best – which belongs to God.

1 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him...”

- God would have used Eli and his house forever, but not now, they have turned away from the ways of the Lord.

“Them that honor me I will honor...”

- Eric Liddel, Olympic athlete for Brittain during the 1924 Olympics. He refused to run on Sunday – which was the qualifying heat for his best race the 100 meter dash. After a lot of controversy he was scheduled on a different day to run the 400 meter race. Just before stepping into the starting block an un-named man slipped a piece of paper into Eric's hand – it read “I will honor them that hone me”. Liddell won the race and set a new world record in the process. He was later martyred in the mission field for his faith.

V: 31-34 God will cut off his arm / take away his strength – enemies shall enter into the house of the Lord, a short term prophesy concerning the Philistines taking the Ark of the Covenant and the destruction of Eli's house and his lineage being killed off.

V: 35 God will raise up a faithful priest who will do His will and honor Him above all things.

- Samuel will indeed be a faithful priest, but this points to the one who is greater still.

Hebrews 5:8-10 “⁸Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; ⁹and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him; ¹⁰called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.”

V: 36 Widows and orphaned sons will be all that is left, and they shall be beggars.

1st Samuel Chapter 3

V: 1 In the mean time Samuel ministered to the Lord, personally as opposed to “for” the Lord. Not just a vocation, but a personal relationship.

- This compromised priest and his wicked sons were simply being used to save a spot for Samuel.
- The word of the Lord was precious / scarce in those days.
- Supply & demand – short supply = great value.

In and of itself, the word of God has great value:

Psalm 19:7-11 “⁷The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desire are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

V: 2-3 Eli is old and tired, he’s getting to be blind, not just physically but spiritually as well.

- Everyone is asleep and “ere” just before the lamp of God, the candlestick / menorah – the oil is just about to run out, (time stamp) meaning it is early in the morning.

Psalm 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

- Just before the light of the word, the lamp of God’s truth goes out – He speaks.

V: 4-10 Samuel learns to hear the voice of the Lord.

- It starts with a willingness to obey, each time he gets up ready to serve.

V: 7 Samuel doesn’t yet know the Lord; but this will take place shortly, but only after he’s heard the voice, the word of God.

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- The Lord stood near... when? When He was speaking to Samuel...

V: 11-14 The Lord speaks to Samuel – his silence to the nation through the priesthood is broken.

- He speaks to Samuel because he has ears to hear, and a heart to obey.
- God relates that He will do a thing in Israel that will make people shiver when they hear it.

Malachi 2:1-2 “¹And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. ²If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto My name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.”

Malachi 2:7-8 “⁷For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. ⁸But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts.”

- The Lord confirms to Samuel the thing He’s spoken to Eli through the previous prophet relative to the judgment upon his household – because he did not intervene as he should have.

Ezekiel 3:16-21 [Turn to & read](#)

V: 15-18 Samuels 1st daily chore was to open the doors of the house of the Lord.

- Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had spoken to him.
- Eli didn’t wait for Samuel, he asks right away what the Lord had spoken.
- Samuel tells Eli everything.
- Eli responds with “oh, well, it’s the Lord – let Him do what He wants...” No apparent repentance?

V: 19 The Lord was with Samuel:

- The Lord did not let any of Samuel’s words fall to the ground... he heard his prayers.

Psalms 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

V: 20 The entire nation knew that Samuel was established as a prophet, this is the first time since Joshua that the nation is united in a theocracy under one man's leadership before the Lord.

V: 21 The Lord appeared again in Shiloh – implying that He had not done that for a while.

- The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel through the Word of God – just as He has to us.

John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us; and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

1. To whom did God speak? To a child.

Luke 18:17 “Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”

2. When did God speak? Early in the morning...

V: 3 “Ere the lamp of God went out...”

- When Samuel was already serving the Lord:

V: 1 **And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord...**

3. Where did the Lord speak? Samuel was in the Temple...

4. What did God speak? 1st He revealed Himself to Samuel through His word.

- He also gave a warning for others.

5. Why did God speak to Samuel? He was willing, he got out of bed 4 times!

Revelation 2:7 “He that hath an ear, let him hear...”