

FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 1 & 2* 7/14-15/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 1 – The Family of Elkanah (vs. 1-7); Hannah’s Vow - (vs. 8-18); Samuel is Born and Dedicated – (vs. 19-27). Chapter 2 – Hannah’s Prayer – (vs. 1-11); The Wicked Sons of Eli – (vs. 12-17); Samuel’s Childhood Ministry - (vs. 18-21); Prophecy Against Eli’s Household – (vs. 22-36).

- **The book of I Samuel is a transition period** in the history of Israel. The nation is moving to a theocracy, a monarchy. However, they were not really following God as King. You might say that they were moving to an Anarchy because several times through the book of Judges it says, “*Every man did that what was right in his own sight,*” moving into a monarchy, where they have an earthly king. But more than that, it is a transition from a period of judges into the period of kings, where judges will no longer rule the nation. Instead, we are introduced to the kings.
- **In the Septuagint, this book is called *The First Book of the Kings***. I & II Samuel and I & II Kings are called *I, II, III, & IV Kings*.

- 1 Samuel is divided as to the life of Samuel (Chaps. 1-7), the life of Saul (Chaps. 8-15), and the life of David (Chaps. 16-31).

The Birth of Samuel

1Sa 1:1 *Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.*

- In (1Ch 6:22-27) the genealogies, we find that Samuel, or his father Elkanah, is of the Levitical tribe of Kohath. Though they lived in one of the Levitical cities of Ephraim, they were called an Ephraimite because that is the area that they came from. They were of the tribe of Levi.

1Sa 1:2 *And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah (first use – 13x), and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.*

- In those days polygamy was practiced, and this man, Elkanah, had two wives. The name of the first one was Grace, or “Hannah,” in Hebrew. Translated into English, it is “Grace.” The name of the second was Peninnah, which in English is “Pearl.” Now Pearl had children, but Grace had no children.

1Sa 1:3 *This man went up from his city yearly (note Elkanah’s faithfulness in godless surroundings) to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.*

- This is the first time the name the LORD of Hosts, JEHOVAH Sabaoth is used in the Bible. It is used 281 times in the Bible, but this is the first use of the LORD of Hosts. At that time Shiloh was the religious center, where the tabernacle was placed. This is where the ark of the covenant was. The place of worship was Shiloh, and thus, they were going to Shiloh each year to worship the LORD at the time of the feast.
- The priest at that time was Eli. He had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. They were *the priests of the LORD*.

1Sa 1:4-5 *And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. [5] But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.*

- In those days, not being able to bear children was a cultural curse. The primary duty of the wife was to produce a son for her husband according to that culture. If she were unable to do so, her husband could divorce her legally and take another wife. It would appear that Elkanah had married Hannah first. It was probably her inability to have children that caused him to take the second wife, Peninnah.
- Peninnah, in contrast to Hannah, was very fruitful. She had many children: sons and daughters. Yet Hannah was still the apparent favorite of Elkanah, in that, when they offered, he gave special portions because of his great love for Hannah.

1Sa 1:6 *And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.*

- Peninnah was the rival or adversary of Hannah. There was no doubt jealousy involved because of the affections of Elkanah which caused Peninnah to constantly be chiding Hannah in her inability to bear children. The thing to note was that it was the LORD who had shut up her womb. It was God that had caused her to become barren in order that God might work out His eternal purpose and plan in her life.

1Sa 1:7 *So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.*

- Going up to the house of the LORD for the feast was a time of great feasting. You would offer up your sacrifice, your peace offering unto the LORD. You would give the LORD His portion but then take your portion. There was always a time of great feasting. As you worship God you would worship Him with feasting.

- **But Hannah found out that she could not eat because of this vexation** that she was experiencing, Because of Peninnah's constant taunting, Hannah was just weeping all the time. Now this had become an obsession, the inability to have a child.

1Sa 1:8 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?"

- **Elkanah did not understand.** What Hannah was needing was sympathetic understanding! We husbands are so clumsy in these areas. When your wife is going through an emotional problem, she does not need reasons, she needs understanding! She does not need for you to tell her, "Now honey, there is nothing to it. There is nothing wrong here. Why are you crying? There is no sense in crying, you know. Everything is fine!" She does not need a rational response, she needs understanding! Sympathetic understanding. "Honey, I understand." That is what she needs. That will do more than all the reasons in the world, just to know that you understand.
- **Look, I am better to you than ten sons.** You have me baby! You do not need a lot of kids." How we men misunderstand the needs of our women: "You got me, is that not enough?"
- **Whenever I see someone really weeping and grieving, am I prone to offer sympathetic understanding? Or do I tend to go to questioning, why? Am I usually helpful or hurtful? In marriage we need to be aware of not putting unreasonable expectations on our spouses, in situations that can only be met by God alone!**

1Sa 1:9-10 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.

- She "wept grievously," or "wept sorely," or "sobbed convulsively" as she prayed to the LORD. The bitterness of her soul, praying unto God. She did the right thing. She brought her grief and sorrows to the LORD, poured out her heart to God. That is really where we are going to find our help. That is where we are going to find the sympathetic understanding that we need. Hannah, a godly woman is aware of how Elhanah is trying to understand, but really cannot. Even the most loving, caring person cannot provide ultimate comfort to their spouse, only God can do that.

1Sa 1:11 Then she made a vow (husbands could overrule a wife's vow, but Elkanah did not!) 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."

- **She is promising to give the child back to God:** "LORD, if you'll just give me a child, I'll give him back to You." This is the vow that she made. In this we discover the purpose for God delaying the answers to her prayers. No doubt, she had been praying for years for a child. Now it is desperate! Now she cannot eat. She is crying all the time. In the desperation of her need, she promises the LORD, "If you will just give me a child, I will give him back to you. He will be consecrated to you all the days of his life. Not a razor will come to his head."
- **God needed a man to lead the children of Israel to a spiritual revival**, and there was no man in Israel that God could use.
- **It is a sad story: God's need for a man at the time of Ezekiel**, the prophet. When God's judgment was coming upon the nation because of their sin, God was wanting -- still, to forestall the judgment. God said in Ezekiel, "And I sought for a man among them, who would stand in the gap, and who would fill in the hedge, but I found none: and therefore, my judgment had to come." God could not find the man who would intercede and stand between the judgment of God and the people. Thus, not finding a man, judgment came.
- **I wonder how often that is repeated in history, where God is seeking for a man** who will fully dedicate his life to the purposes and plan of God, and how many times God comes up short.
- **Not finding a man, God found a woman! We find** that Hannah indeed was a very godly woman. It probably was because of all the problems that she had. There is nothing like problems to "drive you" to the LORD. Just being pressed day by day, by this other wife, living in such misery, probably just drove her to the LORD and brought her into a deep relationship with God. It seems that often God uses adverse circumstances to just push us to Jesus Christ -- how we are crowded unto Christ through the trials and the problems that we face.

- Here was Hannah, crowded unto God by the problems that she had. She was a deeply spiritual woman and God used her to bring forth a man unto the earth that He could use for His purposes. First of all, **He had to get Hannah in alignment with His purposes.** This happened as she was praying, “God if You’ll just give me a son, I’ll give him to You all the days of His life.”

1Sa 1:12-14 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. [13] Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. [14] So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

- She was lying there in the agony and bitterness of her soul. The bitterness was so deep, so great, that she cannot even audibly express her prayer to God. Just in the agony of her heart, pouring out her soul to God, her lips moving: but no words coming forth. There she is sobbing convulsively. As she is lying there, her body is heaving with sobs and the mouth is moving. Eli looks and says, “Man, this woman has had too much wine.”
- This gives us an insight to the moral degeneracy of the times. Here is the priest in the temple, seeing a woman really pouring out her heart unto God. It is such an unusual sight to him that he does not think she is praying! He figures she is drunk. Which means that the women were perhaps lying around drunk after feast times. This was his initial presumption, that she was drunk. Rather than realizing that, “Hey, here is a woman in real agony and bitterness in her soul, pouring out her heart to God!

1Sa 1:15 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.

- It says that she was praying from her heart. Now she says *that she poured out her soul* to the LORD. This is probably prayer at its deepest. You remember in Romans 8, where Paul tells us, “The Spirit also helps our weaknesses: for we do not always know how to pray as we ought: the spirit will make intercession through groanings which cannot be uttered.”
- This was the case with Hannah. There was no sound, there was no utterance. But the groaning of her spirit, the pouring out of her soul: the prayer that was coming out of her heart could not be uttered. She was in deep spiritual communication with God. (**Jas 5:16**) *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*
- Too many times, our prayers are from our heads instead of our hearts. I give very little value to prayers of rote: “God is great, God is good, thank You Father for this food, Amen. -- Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep.” Though they be good for a child in teaching the child the initial communication with God, it is good to encourage your child early in life to break away from prayers of rote: to begin to express their hearts and their minds unto God.
- Sometimes God brings us to that place of utter desperation and despair. It brings us to a depth of prayer that we do not just normally enter into when we really get desperate before God.
- ***How aware are we of the difference of praying from our heads instead of from our hearts? When was the last time, being in a desperate situation, you cried out from the heart to the LORD in prayer and discovered His amazing, supernatural answers to that prayer?***

1Sa 1:16-18 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.

- Go in peace! She believed the promise of God, that God had heard her prayer. She believed that God was going to grant her request. The sign of faith was that she went ahead and ate and was no more sad. Now she is smiling, she is happy. Why? Because she has that confidence that God will keep His word. (**Mar 5:34**) *And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."* ***How is my face? Is it sad, or it is “no longer sad?”***

1Sa 1:19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

- **Prayer, if it follows the full cycle, will usually end in worship.** It usually begins in worship, and enters into petition, then goes back to finish with worship. In the model prayer that the Lord gave us: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” Worship. It goes into petition: “Thy kingdom come. They will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” Then it goes back to worship. “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”
- **In the early church, when they were gathered together, in Acts chapter 4,** they were praying because of the threats that were made against them, they said, (***Act 4:24***) *So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,”* Their prayer began with worship. The **acknowledging of God: His sovereignty, His omniscience, His power, and glory!** Then they said (***Act 4:29***) *Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word. It goes into petition, but it began with worship.* Prayer usually begins and ends with worship. Petition is somewhere in between. **It is always a glorious time when the assurance of God’s Word comes to our hearts, and our petitions are changed to worship: “Oh LORD, thank You!”** You have that assurance that God is going to work in you!
- **The LORD remembered her! (*Gen 19:29; 30:22*)** *And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that **God remembered Abraham**, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt. [30:22] **And God remembered Rachel**, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.*

1Sa 1:20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel (Asked of the LORD), saying, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD.”

Samuel Given to the Lord - *1Sa 1:21-22 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.”*

- **She had made the vow:** “LORD, you give me a son. I will give him back to You all the days of his life.” She wanted to keep him until he was weaned. And when she took him then after his weaning, that was to be it. He was to remain there with Eli as a servant of the LORD, all the days of his life.

1Sa 1:23-28 So Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word.” Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. [24] 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.

- **So, this sacrifice that she was willing to make!** God answered her prayers; she kept her vow. Imagine her excitement as she meets Eli again. Now she has a little child. She says, “Oh! I was the woman that was standing here praying! It was for this child that I was praying. Now I have brought the child to complete my vow to the LORD. God gave me my petition; therefore, **I am going to give him back to the LORD.**”
- Four characteristics of Hannah. Also, to a degree of Elkanah.
 - ✓ **Hannah viewed children as a gift from the Lord,** she saw Samuel as a blessing.

- ✓ **Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord** and in doing so. She was acknowledging that Samuel belonged to God.
- ✓ **Hannah was a woman of God reverencing and fearing the Lord!**
- ✓ **Hannah raised Samuel to serve the Lord**, equipping him to move straight into whatever God's call is upon his life, and to be successful in that calling.
- **How do we consider our children? Are they ours or His? Are we really giving them back to the LORD?**

Hannah's Prayer - Now we have here a sort of spontaneous worship that rises out of Hannah's heart; which is really a prophecy, an extremely exciting prophecy in the Old Testament. Note this prayer is not at the time of Samuel's birth, but at the time he has been weaned and dedicated to the LORD to remain at Shiloh.

- **In the Book of Luke there is another prayer, 'The Magnificat of Mary.'** It is that expression of Mary when she meets her cousin Elizabeth. It gives us insight into the character of Mary, helping us to see what a deeply spiritual person she was. As she bursts forth, **(Luk 1:46-48)** *And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, [47] And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. [48] For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.* She goes on in this glorious exaltation to God! There is nothing in it in scripture to equal except this glorious declaration and exaltation of Hannah here in the Old Testament.
- **As we look at this we get an insight into the depth of the character of this woman, Hannah.** We understand why God chose this woman to fulfill His purpose to bring a man into the world that He could use for His plan and purpose for Israel.

1Sa 2:1-2 *And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD (not in Samuel); My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile (not curse) at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation (not in childbearing). [2] "No one is holy like the LORD (the Jews understood He only had absolute existence), For there is none (no one else) besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.*

- **What a beautiful expression of praise to the Lord:** "*My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.*" When she declared 'I rejoice in Your salvation,' this begins a look forward. How is God's salvation provided for us? Through Yeshua, "Jehovah is salvation." When she said, "I look, and I rejoice in Your salvation," she is rejoicing actually in Jesus Christ! It turns into a prophecy here! Notice what a remarkable prophecy it actually is!
- **Nor is there any rock like our God.** Jesus is the Rock, (1Co 10:4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. there is no Rock like our God. **(Deu 32:31)** *For their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves being judges.* Remember in Nebuchadnezzar's vision, **(Dan 2:45)** *Inasmuch as you saw that the stone (that stone, that Rock is Jesus) was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.*
- **Can I truly say, "My heart rejoices in the LORD, I rejoice in Your salvation?" More than my children? More than anything?**

1Sa 2:3 *"Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge (most wise, teaching and knowing all things); And by Him actions are weighed.*

- It is not so much what you did, but why you did it? And God weighs the actions by what motivated them.

1Sa 2:4-5 *"The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength (strengthened by the LORD). [5] Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble.*

- Here, at this point, she probably is talking about herself and Peninnah. She was barren but God is now making her fruitful. The one who had so many children is waxed feeble.

1Sa 2:6 *"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.*

- **Now the prophecy of Jesus:** Even as Jesus went into the grave and He arose out of the grave. The Lord makes the poor and makes the rich. He who was rich, yet for your sakes became poor, that you through His poverty, might know the riches of God.
- **What a remarkable conception and revelation for a Jewish woman** thousands of years ago, *the LORD kills and He makes alive*. The LORD *takes down to the grave and He brings up* again no doubt *the resurrection!*

1Sa 2:7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.

- **He makes poor and rich! (Deu 8:18a)** "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth."
- **He humbled himself and came in the form of a man obedient as a servant, (Php 2:8-9)** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. [9] Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name! This is a marvelous prophecy concerning Jesus Christ.

1Sa 2:8 He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, And He has set the world upon them.

- **Now he is talking about what Jesus does for those who trust in Him, raising the poor out of the dust, lifts the beggar from the ash heap. (Psa 113:7)** He raises the poor out of the dust, And lifts the needy out of the ash heap.
- **For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's.** Hannah understands, beyond Creation there is the order of His creative genius! (Job 38:4-5) "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. [5] Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?"
- **So that glorious work of God's grace.** The name, 'Hannah' means, "grace?" Here she begins to express the glorious grace of God through Jesus Christ which has been extended unto us.

1Sa 2:9-10) He will guard (keep) the feet of His saints (each one), But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail. [10] The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king (Jesus Christ!), And exalt the horn of His anointed."

- **The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces. (Zec 4:6)** So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. The great judgment period. Hannah prophesying on out until the end, the great judgment period, the Great Tribulation.
- **Exalt the horn of His anointed, which is the Hebrew word, Mashiyach, "Messiah."** Thus, a tremendous prophecy concerning the Messiah: His King, God will exalt the horn of His anointed! So, this marvelous, marvelous prophecy of Hannah; almost unequal in scripture!

1Sa 2:11 Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

- They returned to Ramah. They left Samuel there with Eli the priest.

Eli's Worthless Sons - 1Sa 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

- **Now, again, an insight into the spiritual conditions.** Here they were priests, and yet, they did not even know the Lord!

1Sa 2:13 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.

- **He would put the hook into the meat and whatever portion would come out, then that would be for the priest. The rest would be offered unto the Lord or eaten by the people.**

1Sa 2:14-16 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."

- Because of their rotten, unrighteous attitudes, they were grabbing for themselves and enriching themselves from the ministry. What they did was actually a cause for people to actually hate to come to sacrifice to the LORD because of what they had to go through from these fellows, which was an extremely grievous sin! It is sad when men who are supposedly men of God, ministers of God, use their positions to enrich themselves, making a shame because they were taking from the people in an unrighteous way. It caused people to blaspheme God.

1Sa 2:17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

- The Bible tells us (Jas 3:1) *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.* When you are in the ministry, serving the Lord, you are being judged by tighter standards than people that are not standing up as God's representatives. It is an extremely serious business to stand as God's representative in bringing God's truth. It is to be taken as a very serious position because of not wanting to be guilty of misrepresenting God.
- This is the background of these evil sons, and the place where people come to worship God, a place where people just do not want to go because of the corruption that is there.
- ***Here we have the people abhorring giving an offering to the Lord because of the ungodly behavior of Eli's sons. Is there anything in my life that is not only just drawing others to Christ? But God forbid, is actually pushing them away?***

1Sa 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

- In this background this little boy Samuel began to serve the Lord. We can get a mental picture of this little boy, just working around the tabernacle, doing the little odds and ends that needed to be done. He is clothed in a little priestly linen robe, busying himself around the tabernacle.

1Sa 2:19-20 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. [20] And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

- May the LORD give her other children because she has lent this boy to Him!

1Sa 2:21 And the LORD visited Hannah (last use), so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

Eli Rebukes His Sons - 1Sa 2:22 *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.*

- They were fornicating with the women right there within the tabernacle precincts!

1Sa 2:23-26 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. [26] And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

- You have the two forces now, little Samuel, growing up in a corrupted atmosphere; and yet, growing up in purity - serving the Lord. He was becoming more prominent in the minds and eyes of the people. They were looking to him, respecting him, and reverencing his ministry. Whereas the sons of Eli, not listening to their dad, continued in their evil and wicked ways.

The LORD Rejects Eli's Household - 1Sa 2:27-29 *Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father (Aaron)*

when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? [28] Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father (Aaron) all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? [29] Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?'

- Here Eli was, honoring his sons above the LORD! He did not discipline them, nor stop them!
- *To make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of My people.* In other words, "You're getting fat off of the people." You are getting fat off of religion."
- ***Eli is rebuked by the LORD because he was honoring his sons above the LORD. Is there anything in my life that I am honoring more than the LORD? Spouse? Children? Grandchildren? Things? Position, Power, Money?***

1Sa 2:30-32 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. [31] Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. [32] And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever.

- ***The house of Eli is to be cut off!*** There is not to be an old man left in his house. (*1Ki 2:27*) So Solomon removed Abiathar (who had taken part before with Adonijah, trying to become king) from being priest to the LORD, that he might fulfill the word of the LORD which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh. Zadok of the family of Eliezer was made priest, by this, change the priesthood reverted to its previous channel.

1Sa 2:33-34 But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. [34] Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.

- That will be the sign. You are not going to have anybody who lives to an old age in your family!

1Sa 2:35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

- *Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest.* It will partially be fulfilled in Samuel, partially fulfilled in Zadok in Solomon's reign, and ultimately and permanently fulfilled in Jesus Christ, according to the order of Melchizedek. We see this fully developed in Hebrews, chapters 2 and 6, the faithful Priest.
- *Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest.* The Priesthood of Levi is to be set aside. There is to be a new order of the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, even Jesus Christ, our great High Priest. He shall be our Priest and Anointed forever.
- ***My anointed forever! How thankful am I for my Eternal High Priest, My anointed One, Jesus Christ, my High Priest forever, Who always lives to make intercession for me?***

1Sa 2:36 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat (begging) a piece of bread."

- Eli is rebuked by this unnamed man of God and is told that he will be cut off. Eventually the Levitical priesthood will be cut off. God will raise up a new priesthood, according to the order of Melchizedek, fulfilled in Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King! He will be our High Priest, forever! He will be *making intercession for us!*
- (*Heb 7:25*) *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

- In chapter 3, as we deal again with this little fellow Samuel, and how God works in his life and begins to speak to him. It is a fascinating experience as God begins to speak to Samuel.
- *My anointed Forever! My anointed, My Messiah, forever! A Thousand Hallelujahs!*

SUMMARY

- ***Whenever I see someone really weeping and grieving, am I prone to offer sympathetic understanding? Or do I tend to go to questioning, why? Am I usually helpful or hurtful? In marriage we need to be aware of not putting unreasonable expectations on our spouses, in situations that can only be met by God alone! (1Sa 1:8)***
- ***How aware are we of the difference of praying from our heads instead of from our hearts? When was the last time, being in a desperate situation, you cried out from the heart to the LORD in prayer and discovered His amazing, supernatural answers to that prayer? (1Sa 1:15)***
- ***How do we consider our children? Are they ours or His? Are we really giving them back to the LORD? (1Sa 1:28)***
- ***Eli is rebuked by the LORD because he was honoring his sons above the LORD. Is there anything in my life that I am honoring more than the LORD? Spouse? Children? Grandchildren? Things? Position, Power, Money? (1Sa 1:29)***
- ***Here we have the people abhorring giving an offering to the Lord because of the ungodly behavior of Eli's sons. Is there anything in my life that is not only just drawing others to Christ? But God forbid, is actually pushing them away? (1Sa 2:17)***
- ***My anointed forever! How thankful am I for my Eternal High Priest, My anointed One, Jesus Christ, my High Priest forever, Who always lives to make intercession for me? (1Sa 2:35)***

A THOUSAND HALLELUJAHS - Scott Ligertwood/Phil Wickham/Brooke Ligertwood (2:48/2:51)

*Praise to the Lord To the Lamb To the King of heaven
Praise for He rose Now He reigns We will sing forever
Praise to the Lord To the Lamb To the King of heaven
Praise for He rose Now He reigns We will sing forever
With a thousand hallelujahs We magnify Your Name You alone deserve the glory The honor and the praise
Lord Jesus this song is forever Yours A thousand hallelujahs A thousand more*

*We sing praise to the Lord To the Lamb To the King of heaven
Praise for He rose Now He reigns We will sing forever
With a thousand hallelujahs We magnify Your Name You alone deserve the glory The honor and the praise Lord Jesus this song is forever Yours A thousand hallelujahs A thousand more*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 3-5!