

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

1 Samuel

Lesson 2 Hannah's Prayer

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We hope that you have read lesson 1, as it will help you understand what this precious book of the Bible is about to reveal to you. We will start this Bible lesson with an ensample (1 Corinthians 10:11).

1 Samuel 1:1-3, *Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: 2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.*

Look at Joshua 18:1, ***And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.*** The children of Israel came out of Egypt, traveled through the wilderness, and entered into the promised land, where they set up the tabernacle of the congregation to assemble for the worship of God at Shiloh. This is a type, or picture, in the Old Testament of what was to finally be fulfilled in the New Testament – a meeting place, where the people congregate together to serve, to worship the Lord, and to offer their sacrifices of praise.

Four hundred years later, in Jeremiah's day, we read about Shiloh being destroyed. Jeremiah 7:11-12, ***Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD. But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.***

The children of Israel turned God's house into a den of thieves. Jesus mentions this in Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, and Luke 19:46. We can see the outcome of this today. Look around your own neighborhoods at some of the once great churches. They started out right, with people loving God, praying, and worshipping Him. Pretty soon, their focus became more on the building, the music, the dress code, and the money. Then they stopped preaching against sin, resulting in the people sinning against God. Eventually God destroys the work. We wish that were not true, but it is.

Now the Bible says in Jeremiah 7:12-15, ***But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. 13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; 14 Therefore will I do unto this***

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house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust... (They weren't trusting God anymore; they were trusting the church building.) *and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. 15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.*

Interesting note, look back at 1 Samuel 1:1 *...the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite*: that is where Al Qaeda came from. Do you remember what the Bible said in the New Testament (1 Peter 4:17)? Judgment must begin at the house of God. It began at Shiloh in the Old Testament; it began at Jerusalem in the New Testament in 70 A.D. when Titus went in and destroyed them. How often do we hear people say, "The wrath of God needs to fall on this country."? If God's judgment does fall, the first place it will hit is the church. Here is the order of whom God holds accountable for the wickedness of our country:

1. Preachers
2. People who confess to know Him
3. The heathen whom do not even give Him a thought

Why did we take that side trip? The book of 1 Samuel is often attacked in the commentaries, which are written by people who are supposed to believe the Bible. These authors often tear down and attack the authenticity of the book of 1 Samuel, saying the writers of it just made up all those stories and places. However, in 1922, a Danish expedition team found the ruins of Shiloh. They excavated it from 1922 to 1931, and discovered there was no civilization there that predated the arrival of the Hebrews. The oldest relics and ruins they found were of Israelite culture, matching the exact date of the book of Joshua chapter 18.

The Bible book of 1 Samuel is a true book. In this book you have the city where God's tabernacle was pitched, where the ark of the covenant was, where God met with His people through His priests...where His priests went bad, and His people went bad. God could not care less about their tabernacle, their city, their religion, or their property. He just wiped the whole thing right off the map. It wasn't until 3,000 years later that some fellows discovered it when they went out into the middle of the desert with shovels and dug it up.

Church is not some place you go to play. God is not just someone you invite into a little corner of your life in case you have an emergency. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords; and either He has first place in your life, or He will have no place in your life.

1 Samuel 1:3-7 *And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.* (God wants us to pay attention to the end of this verse. These two fellows are going to play a prominent part before we get through

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with this book of 1 Samuel.) *4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her the LORD had shut up her womb. 6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. 7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.* There are two possibilities here:

1. The “*he*” that is doing this could be a reference to Elkanah going to the house of the LORD to sacrifice *year by year*. That would fit grammatically.

2. It could be that Peninnah is influenced by a “*he*” who is Satan, the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). But in either case, Hannah is very upset. She greatly desired to have a child.

Now there is a lesson to be learned – Let’s read on just a little bit, in verse 7 *...therefore she wept, and did not eat*. All over America and around the world today, there are proud people who go to church, who are not bearing fruit. What kind of fruit? Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, and more (see Galatians 5:22-26). They are admonished in the scripture to *not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another*, and yet they get caught up in the world’s way of thinking, “If only we had..., we went..., we lived...” – never satisfied. Every time they hear a sermon that moves them, they go to the altar weeping, begging God to help them to change, but nothing ever changes. They are still lacking love for God to change. Instead, they make the same excuses that we all did before we got saved – “Oh, God understands me.” or “He knows I am trying.” Yet they hold on to their bad tempers, their lack of forgiveness, their lack of spirituality. Ask yourself honestly, what have you changed in your life from last year to this that has made you more spiritual? Most people, if honest, will say nothing. Year after year, they are satisfied with being barren, lukewarm Christians. So often heard are the infamous words, “I love God. I go to church once a week. I pray for others. We must keep things in perspective and not be fanatical.”

Hannah is being very serious here with her prayer to the LORD. Her heart is broken as she prays to the LORD. 1 Samuel 1:9-11 *So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.* (That is a Nazarite vow.)

Let us see something here about this prayer of Hannah – how she calls God to action by His eye, by His heart, and by His hand. In verse 11, she appeals to His eye, “*...look on the affliction of thine handmaid*”. She is not

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getting mad at God in her prayer. Far too often when something does not go our way, we tend to get angry with God. We end up saying something to God in prayer like, “God, why did you do that?” or “God, why did you let that happen?” There is no accusation like this in Hannah’s prayer. She just asks God to look; she appeals to His eye.

Then she appeals to His heart. She says, “*remember me*” – “God, you made me, you brought me into this world. You gave me this desire to have a child, God. Remember!” She appeals to the heart of God. Finally, she appeals to His hand. “*but wilt give*”. Hannah says, “God, behold. God, remember. God, give.”

There is nothing wrong with appealing to God in prayer with consistency. In fact, the scripture gives us numerous examples of consistent and effectual prayer. (Colossians 4:12, Nehemiah 1:4-11, Luke 11:1-13.) The modern teaching (“name it and claim it”) is “pray the prayer and claim the verse, signing it in Jesus’ name, and expect it to happen”. This is an insult to God’s character. Hannah is teaching us Christian maturity. Her prayer is made in humility, with tears and a broken heart. Psalm 126:6 *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

1 Samuel 1:12-13 *And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.* Why is Eli looking at her? Surely there are others in the temple praying to themselves. Why has he singled her out? The Holy Spirit is trying to show us something with regard to Eli’s intentions towards Hannah. This phrase, “*marked her mouth*” is an indication that Eli must have been staring at her. *13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard:*” Eli is sitting there idle, thinking about Hannah being drunk...*therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.* He is thinking to himself, “Here am I, the spiritual leader of the nation. I need to say something to her.” He does not have enough spiritual discernment to tell the difference between someone who is drunk and someone who is filled with the Spirit.

1 Samuel 1:14-16 *And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee. 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.*

Let’s look at that last verse and wrap up this lesson on a high note. Hannah did not bring her complaint to Elkanah or to Eli, nor did she bring it to the members of the church. She took her complaint to the Lord. She had a legitimate complaint, but she knew that no man or woman could solve her

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problem. Also, when she did bring it to the Lord, she did not bring it in anger or with an attitude of being owed something, but rather in humility. She poured out her soul unto the Lord.

“Many of us carry around a tremendous amount of burdens on a daily basis. The best thing to do is to take them straight to the Lord.”

Notes

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Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with answer in your own words.

1. Explain the *"name it and claim it"* doctrine taught at some churches.
2. What has to happen in an individual's life for them to grow in the Lord?
3. What types of prayers get answered by God? *
4. If something drastic does not happen in the next 50 years, what will be the condition of the Local Church? *
5. We have all thought at one time or another for God to do something about the condition of our world by bringing judgement upon it, but what should we really be praying for so as to avoid our own chastening in the process? *
6. What is the significance of Shiloh?
7. What is the Bible trying to teach us from Eli's actions about leaders in the church? (use 1 Peter 1:24 in your explanation)
8. Who found Shiloh in 1922 to prove the truth of the Bible? What did they also discover when searching the ruins?

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9. What is the definition of a fruitless Christian? *

10. What does Hannah's prayer say about her relationship with her Lord?

11. In what ways does the 21st century Church compare to the Laodicean Church of Revelation 3?

12. Why was Eli looking at Hannah?

True/false

- A church leader is irreproachable.
- God welcomes sincere persistent prayers to Him.
- God hates people who gossip.
- If someone in the Church offends you, you need to tell the pastor.

**Scripture memorization**

1 John 2:16; Proverbs 6:19; 1 Peter 4:17 Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?