

Men of Faith: **SAMUEL** **GOD'S PROPHET**

(I Samuel 1 - 3 Samuel as a Young Boy)

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Printed by:
UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC
Hattiesburg, MS

For copies, call: Jack Kennedy, at 601 520-1113

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Hannah said... O LORD Almighty,
if you will look down upon my sorrow and
answer my prayer and give me a son, then
I will give him back to you.
He will be yours for his entire lifetime,
I Samuel 1: 11

Characters in the story:

Narrator: Story teller
Hannah: Samuel's mother
Elkanah: Samuel's father and Hannah's husband
Eli: The Chief Priest & Judge
God: God
Samuel: Samuel the Prophet
Peninnah: Elkanah's other wife - she made fun of Hannah

The Prophet Samuel ... As a Young Boy I Samuel 1 - 3

Narrator: I Samuel 1:1 There was a man named Elkanah who lived in Ramah in the hill country of Ephraim. ... 2 Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, while Hannah did not. 3 Each year Elkanah and his family would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at the Tabernacle. The priests of the LORD at that time were the two sons of Eli--Hophni and Phinehas.

4 On the day Elkanah presented his sacrifice, he would give portions of the sacrifice to Peninnah and each of her children. 5 But he gave Hannah a special portion because he loved her very much, even though the LORD had given her no children. 6 But Peninnah made fun of Hannah because the LORD had closed her womb.

Peninnah: (she makes fun of Hannah because she doesn't have any children and she makes Hannah cry.)

Narrator: 7 Year after year it was the same-- Peninnah would taunt Hannah as they went to the Tabernacle. Hannah would finally be reduced to tears and would not even eat.

Narrator: 19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said was wise and helpful. 20 All the people of Israel from one end of the land to the other knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. 21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.

4:1 And Samuel's words went out to all the people of Israel.

Narrator: (Conclusion) Some time later, when the Philistines and Israelites were at war, Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas were killed in the battle on the same day. When Eli heard the bad news about his sons dieing and then that the Ark of the Lord had been captured, he fell backward from his seat, broke his neck and died. Eli was ninety eight years old when he died and he had judged Israel for 40 years.

Samuel grew up and became a great prophet for God. Later he was the prophet who anointed Saul and then David as King over Israel. (? 7)

Samuel: "Yes, your servant is listening."

Narrator: 11 Then the LORD said to Samuel,

God: "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. 12 I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family. 13 I have warned him continually that judgment is coming for his family, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. 14 So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."

Narrator: 15 Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the LORD had said to him. 16 But Eli called out to him,

Eli: "Samuel, my son."

Samuel: "Here I am,"

Narrator: Samuel replied.

Eli: 17 "What did the LORD say to you? Tell me everything. And may God punish you if you hide anything from me!"

Narrator: 18 So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back.

Eli: "It is the Lord's will,"

Narrator: Eli replied.

Eli: "Let him do what he thinks best."

Elkanah: 8 "What's the matter, Hannah?"

Narrator: Elkanah would ask.

Elkanah: "Why aren't you eating? Why be so sad just because you have no children? You have me--isn't that better than having ten sons?"

Narrator: 9 Once when they were at Shiloh, Hannah went over to the Tabernacle after supper to pray to the LORD. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance. 10 Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. 11 And she made this vow:

Hannah: "O LORD Almighty, if you will look down upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut." (? 1)



Narrator: 12 As she was praying to the LORD, Eli watched her. 13 Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking.

Eli: 14 "Must you come here drunk?" ... "Throw away your wine!"

Hannah: 15 "Oh no, sir!" she replied, "I'm not drunk! But I am very sad, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD. 16 Please don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow."

Eli: 17 "In that case,"

Narrator: Eli said,

Eli: "cheer up! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him."

Hannah: 18 "Oh, thank you, sir!"

Narrator: she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad. 19 The entire family got up early the next morning and went to worship the LORD once more. Then they returned home to Ramah.

When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the LORD remembered her request, 20 and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said,

Hannah: "I asked the LORD for him."

Narrator: 21 The next year Elkanah, Peninnah, and their children went on their annual trip to offer a sacrifice to the LORD. 22 But Hannah did not go. She told her husband,

Hannah: "Wait until the baby is weaned. Then I will take him to the Tabernacle and leave him there with the LORD permanently."

Narrator: So he did. 6 Then the LORD called out again,

God: "Samuel!"

Narrator: Again Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli.

Samuel: "Here I am," **Narrator:** he said.

Samuel: "What do you need?"

Eli: "I didn't call you, my son," **Narrator:** Eli said.

Eli: "Go on back to bed."

Narrator: 7 Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. 8 So now the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli.

Samuel: "Here I am," **Narrator:** he said.

Samuel: "What do you need?"

Narrator: Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. 9 So he said to Samuel,

Eli: "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Yes, LORD, your servant is listening.'"

Narrator: So Samuel went back to bed. 10 And the LORD came and called as before,

God: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Narrator: And Samuel replied,

Narrator: 2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had just gone to bed. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God.

4 Suddenly, the LORD called out,

God: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel: "Yes?" **Narrator:** Samuel replied.

Samuel: "What is it?"

Narrator: 5 He jumped up and ran to Eli.

Samuel: "Here I am. What do you need?" (? 6)

Eli: "I didn't call you,"

Narrator: Eli replied.

Eli: "Go on back to bed."



Elkanah: 23 "Whatever you think is best,"

Narrator: Elkanah agreed.

Elkanah: "Stay here for now, and may the LORD help you keep your promise." (? 2)

Narrator: So she stayed home and nursed the baby. 24 When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They brought along a three-year-old bull for the sacrifice and half a bushel of flour and some wine. 25 After sacrificing the bull, they took the child to Eli.

Hannah: 26 "Sir, do you remember me?"

Narrator: Hannah asked.



Hannah: "I am the woman who stood here several years ago praying to the LORD. 27 I asked the LORD to give me this child, and he has given me my request. 28 Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life."

Narrator: And they worshiped the LORD there.
2:1 Then Hannah prayed:

Hannah: "My heart rejoices in the LORD! Oh, how the LORD has blessed me! Now I have an answer for my enemies, as I delight in your deliverance.
2 No one is holy like the LORD! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.
3 "Stop acting so proud and haughty! Don't speak with such arrogance! The LORD is a God who knows your deeds; and he will judge you for what you have done.
.... The barren woman now has seven children; but the woman with many children will have no more. ... 7
The LORD makes one poor and another rich; he brings one down and lifts another up.
8 He lifts the poor from the dust-- yes, from a pile of ashes! He treats them like princes, placing them in seats of honor. "For all the earth is the Lord's, and he has set the world in order. ...

Narrator: 11 Then Elkanah and Hannah returned home to Ramah without Samuel. And the boy became the Lord's helper, for he assisted Eli the priest.
12 Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels who had no respect for the LORD ... the sin of these young men was very serious in the Lord's sight, for they treated the Lord's offerings with contempt.
18 Now Samuel, though only a boy, was the Lord's

helper. He wore a linen tunic just like that of a priest.
19 Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him when she came with her husband for the sacrifice. (? 3) 20 Before they returned home, Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say,

Eli: "May the LORD give you other children to take the place of this one she gave to the LORD."

Narrator: 21 And the LORD gave Hannah three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD. (? 4)
22 Now Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing to the people of Israel. He knew, for instance, that his sons were seducing the young women who assisted at the entrance of the Tabernacle.
23 Eli said to them,

Eli: "I have been hearing reports from the people about the wicked things you are doing. Why do you keep sinning? 24 You must stop, my sons! The reports I hear among the Lord's people are not good. 25 If someone sins against another person, God can mediate for the guilty party. But if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede?"

Narrator: But Eli's sons wouldn't listen to their father, for the LORD was already planning to put them to death. (? 5) 26 Meanwhile, as young Samuel grew taller, he also continued to gain favor with the LORD and with the people. ... 3:1 ... the boy Samuel was serving the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.