

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 1: Introduction and Chapter 1:1-16

17 June 2016

INTRODUCTION

THE GOOD GUYS

Hannah
Samuel
David
Abigail
Jonathan

THE BAD GUYS

Eli
Saul
Nabal
Michal
Hophni and Phinehas

TWO PARALLEL HISTORIES:

1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings

1171 B.C. -----588 B.C.

1056 B.C. -----434 B.C.

1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah

(1 Chronicles also includes Hebrew genealogy from 4004 B.C.-1056 B.C. in Chapters 1-9)

CONTENT: Hebrew settlement of the Promised land through conquest. Samuel is prophet, Saul is king. The disobedient Hebrews failed to remove all the ungodly people during the days of Judges, therefore 1 Samuel is a book of many battles with these people.

Those enemies picture sin in our Christian lives. Mortify it or you'll be battling it all your life.

Magnitude: 31 Chapters, 810 verses, 25,061 words.

FOUR GREAT SUBJECTS IN FIRST SAMUEL

1. The best religion in the world won't work. The Levitical system established by God was a total failure within 300 years from its establishment.
2. Samuel's prophetic office: preaching, anointing and ordaining kings, influencing the government. Samuel was honored in God's holy word (Psa. 99:6-7, Heb. 11:32), has no bad marks recorded.
3. God is rejected and Saul is chosen as king. 1 Samuel teaches "*to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey*" (Rom. 6:16).
4. God rejects Saul and chooses David.

THE DIVISIONS OF 1 SAMUEL

1. The breakdown (failure) of the priesthood (chapters 1-4).
 2. The vindication of God's glory. God had to show the heathen His great glory because the Hebrews had misrepresented Him (Chapter 5-7:2).
 3. Divine government is executed concerning Samuel, his sons, and the people's rejection of God's rule (7:3 through chapter 8).
 4. The reign and ruin of Saul (chapters 9-15).
 5. David is anointed as God's king, but not enthroned yet (chapters 16-20).
 6. The life of David before ascending to the throne (chapters 21-31).
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CHAPTER 1

Vss. 1-3 Elkanah went to **Shiloh** yearly to worship the Lord (see Joshua 18:1). This is where the Tabernacle was set up in the Promised Land. 400 years later Shiloh was destroyed by God (Jer. 7:12-15). Elkanah is a descendant of Ephraim (vs. 1). 1 Pet. 4:17 says *“Judgment must begin at the house of God.”* God will judge the place of worship (Tabernacle, Temple, church house) before he judges the nation. God holds *His* people accountable.

Vss. 4-5 Elkanah loved Hannah, but God had **“shut up her womb.”** Babies come from God (Psalm 71:6, 119:73, 127:3, 139:13-16, Job 10:9-11, 31:15, Eccl. 11:5, Isa. 44:24).

Vss. 6-7 Hannah’s “adversary” (vs. 6) may have been Penninah (two wives for one husband will result in rivalry), but Satan is the true adversary (Job 2:2, 1 Pet. 5:8, Acts 10:38).

Lesson: There are a lot of Christians who never bear fruit. They are barren. They keep going to church, but they’re not moved by their lack of spirituality, character, and fruit year after year. Barrenness ought to bother us as it bothered Hannah.

Vs. 8 Elkanah tried to comfort Hannah, but she would not be comforted until she had a baby.

Vs. 9 Hannah went to the temple. This “temple” is **“the tabernacle of Shiloh”** (Psa. 78:60). Bible critics object to the word **“temple”** here because the temple isn’t built until Solomon becomes king. “Temple” is a term that designates a “dwelling place.” In Hanna’s day, the Tabernacle was the place where the people went to meet with God.

Seven buildings in Scripture called a “temple:” **1)** The tabernacle (1 Sam. 1:9). **2)** Solomon’s temple (1 Kings 6). **3)** The reconstructed temple under Zerubbabel (Ezra 4). **4)** Herod’s temple (John 2). **5)** The future temple in Jerusalem in the last days (2 Thess. 2). **6)** The Millennial Temple (Ezek. 41). **7)** The heavenly temple (Psalm 11:4, Isa. 6:1, Hab. 2:20).

The believer’s body is referred to as a temple and a tabernacle (1 Cor. 3:16-19, 2 Cor. 5:1, 2 Pet. 1:14)

Vss. 10-11 Hannah goes to the Lord deeply afflicted, in bitterness of soul. In her prayer, she calls God to action: **1)** By His eye (“Look on the affliction). **2)** By His heart (“Remember me”). **3)** By His hand (“But wilt give”).

Vs. 12-16 Hannah prayed in public, but not to be seen of others (Mt. 6:5). Her lips moved, but her voice was silent (see Rom. 8:26). She was praying in the Spirit. Eli the priest thought she was drunk (see Acts 2:13). He demonstrated a lack of spiritual discernment. Hannah considered a drunkard to be a child of the Devil. She took her “complaint” to the Lord, not to anyone else.
