

2 – THE RAISING OF A PROPHET (1 SAMUEL 1:1-3:21)

I. The Birth of Samuel (1 Samuel 1:1-2:10)

A. Hannah's Struggle (1:1-8)

- The writer introduces the reader to a Levite named Elkanah and his two wives.
- His first wife Hannah was barren and was tormented by her rival.
- Hannah was grieved by not having children and Elkanah could not console her.

B. Hannah's Petition (1:9-18)

- In her anguish, Hannah prayed at the Tabernacle and made a vow to the Lord concerning a son.
- The High Priest Eli witnessed her praying without speaking and thought she was drunk.
- After rebuking her for her drunkenness, Hannah expressed her grief and Eli blessed her.
- When Eli told her the Lord would grant her request, she went away no longer sad.

C. Samuel's Birth and Presentation (1:19-28)

- The Lord remembered Hannah and she bore a son named Samuel.
- After the Samuel was weaned, Hannah and Elkanah presented Samuel to the Lord at Shiloh.

D. Hannah's Song (2:1-10)

- Hannah expressed her praise and worship of God who had answered her prayer concerning a son.

II. The Sin at Shiloh (1 Samuel 2:11-36)

A. The Sacrifices Despised (2:11-17)

- In the background of Samuel ministering to the Lord, the sin of the priesthood is presented.
- The priest were taking the choice meats from the sacrifices that were reserved for the Lord.

B. The Blessing of Elkanah's Family (2:18-21)

- Eli blessed Hannah and Elkanah, and she bore three more sons and two daughters.

C. Sexual Sin at Shiloh (2:22-25)

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- Eli rebuked his sons for their sexual sin with women who gather at the Tabernacle.
- The sons did not heed the rebuke of their father, for the Lord had determined to kill them.

D. The Rebuke of the Prophet (2:26-36)

- An unnamed prophet visited Eli and proclaimed the Lord's judgment on his house.
- The Lord declared that Eli's sons would die and that no male in his family would see old age.
- The Lord pronounced that he will raise for himself a faithful priest to serve him.

III. The Calling of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-21)

A. The Nature of the Times (1 Samuel 3:1)

- The writer points out that the word of the Lord was rare in those days.

B. The Calling of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:2-9)

- One evening, the Lord called to Samuel, but he thought that Eli had called him.
- Again, the Lord called to Samuel, and once again he thought Eli had called him.
- The writer points out that at this time in his life, Samuel did not know the Lord.
- After the third calling, Eli perceived the Lord was calling the boy and instructed him.

C. The Message from the Lord (1 Samuel 3:10-18)

- Once again, the Lord called to Samuel and he responded as Eli had instructed him.
- The Lord revealed that he will bring the judgment that he pronounced on Eli's family.
- In the morning, Eli told Samuel to tell him everything the Lord has shown him.
- Samuel told Eli everything and Eli pronounced that the Lord will do as he wants.

D. The Spiritual Growth of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:19-21)

- Samuel grew and the Lord fulfilled all that Samuel prophesied.
- All of Israel recognized that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord.
- The Lord revealed himself to Samuel by the word of the Lord.