

**Elkanah at Shiloh**

1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountain of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toke in Nasiv Ephraim. 2 He had two wives. The name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah none. 3 And each year the man went up from his city of Ramathaim to worship and sacrifice to Lord Sabaoth in Shiloh. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both priests of the Lord, went there as well. 4 And on the day he came, Elkanah sacrificed and gave a portion to Peninnah his wife, and to his sons and daughters. 5 To Hannah, he gave one portion, since she was without child. However Elkanah loved Hannah more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Because the Lord did not give to her a child during her tribulation, and during the discouragement of her tribulation, she was broken-hearted. The Lord had closed her womb and did not give her a child. 7 So year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, she was broken-hearted and wept and did not eat.

**Hannah's Vow**

8 Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah." And she said to him, "Here I am, lord." Then he said to her, "What is the matter with you? Why do you not eat? And why are you heartsick? Am I not better for you than ten children?" 9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating in Shiloh, and she sat down before the Lord. Eli the priest was sitting nearby on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. 10 Hannah was grieved in spirit and prayed to the Lord, lamenting and weeping. 11 She prayed a vow to the Lord God and said, "O Lord, my God of Sabaoth, if you are looking, look with favor upon the lowly state of Your handmaiden and remember me. I pray You, give Your handmaiden a seed of men, a son, and I will dedicate him before You as a gift until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor intoxicating drink, and no razor shall come upon his head." 12 And as she kept praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth. 13 And as she spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 The servant of God said to her, "For how long will you remain drunk? Cast off your wine, and go out from the face of the Lord!" 15 But Hannah answered and said, "No lord, I am a woman for whom this day is difficult. I drank neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but I pour out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not consider your handmaiden a daughter of pestilence just because of the multitude of my idle words I have put forth." 17 Then Eli answered and said to her, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you the petition you asked of Him." 18 And she said, "Your handmaiden has found favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and came into her lodging and ate and drank with her husband. Her face was no longer fallen.

**Birth and Dedication of Samuel**

19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped the Lord and went on their way back to Elkanah's house at Ramathaim. And he knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. 20 She conceived, and it came to be at the appointed time she bore a son, and she called him Samuel and said, "Because I asked for him from the Lord God Sabaoth." 21 Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice, his vow, and the tenth portion of all his land. 22 But Hannah did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, "I will not go up

until our boy is weaned from me. Then he will appear in the presence of the Lord and stay there continually.” 23 And Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what is good in your eyes; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord confirm as true what was coming out of your mouth.” So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she weaned him. 24 And she went up with him to Shiloh with a calf three years old, loaves of bread, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She came to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was with them. 25 And they came before the Lord, and his father slaughtered the offering he made yearly to the Lord. He brought the child and slaughtered the calf. Then Hannah, the mother of the young boy, went to Eli. 26 And she said to him, “Lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman who was standing near you while I prayed to the Lord. 27 For this child I prayed, and the Lord gave me my request which I asked from Him. 28 And I lend him to the Lord all the days which he lives to be fruitful to the Lord.”

## **1 Kingdoms 2**

### **Hannah’s Prayer**

1 And she said: “My heart is strengthened in the Lord; My horn is exalted in my God. I smile at my enemies; I rejoice in Your salvation. 2 Because no one is holy like the Lord, No one is righteous like our God, No one is holy but You. 3 Do not boast nor speak of high things; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And God is preparing His actions. 4 He weakened the bow of mighty men, And those who are weak are girded with strength. 5 Those who were full of bread were made empty, And the hungry have forsaken the land. The barren woman has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. 6 The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Hades and raises up. 7 The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low and lifts up. 8 He raises the poor from the earth And lifts the needy from the dung heap, To set them among princely people And make them inherit a throne of glory. 9 The One who gives a prayer to the one praying, He blesses with righteous years; For by strength no man can prevail. 10 The Lord makes His adversaries weak; The Lord is holy. Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding, Nor let the man of might boast in his might, Nor let the man of riches boast in his riches. Only let the one who boasts boast in this: To understand and to know the Lord And to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth. The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered. The Lord judges the ends of the earth. He gives strength to our leaders, And He will exalt the horn of His Christ.” 11 They left him there before the Lord and went away to Ramathaim, and the child performed the services before the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

### **The Sinful Sons of Eli**

12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of scoundrels, not knowing the Lord. 13 And the custom of the priest for the people who sacrificed was for the servant of the priest to come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged meat-hook in his hand. 14 He would then thrust it into either the large kettle, or the brazen vessel, or the pot; and everything the meat-hook brought up, the priest would take for himself. So in Shiloh, they did this to all the Israelites who came there to sacrifice to the Lord. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the servant came and said to the man who sacrificed, “Give some meat to be roasted to the priest, and I will not take any of your boiled meat from out of the cauldron.” 16 And if the man sacrificing said to him, “First he should burn the fat

as fitting, then you may take as much as your soul desires.” But he would say, “No, you shall give it to me now, and if not, I will take it by force.” 17 Therefore the sin of the servants is exceedingly great before the Lord, for they nullified the sacrifice of the Lord.

### **God’s Servant Samuel**

18 As a young boy, Samuel was serving before the Lord wearing a linen ephod of a servant.

19 Moreover, his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him once a year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord repay you with a seed from this woman, in return for the loan you made to the Lord.” Then the man went to his place. 21 And the Lord watched over Hannah, and she bore three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew and matured before the Lord.

### **A Prophecy against Eli’s House**

22 Now Eli was very, very old and he heard what his sons did to the sons of Israel. 23 So he said to them, “Why are you doing what I hear from the mouth of all the people of the Lord? 24 No, my sons! For the report I hear is not good. Do not act in this manner, for the reports I hear are not good, causing the people not to serve God. 25 If one man sins against another, they will pray to the Lord for him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will pray for him?” Nevertheless they did not heed their father’s voice, so the Lord desired to destroy them. 26 But the child Samuel led his life and he grew and matured and found favor both with the Lord and with men. 27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, ‘I clearly revealed Myself to the house of your father when they were slaves in Egypt in Pharaoh’s house. 28 I chose the house of your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to go to My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me. And I gave to the house of your father, and to the sons of Israel, food from all the offerings of fire. 29 Why do you regard My incense and My sacrifice with impudent eyes and honor your sons more than Me; to bless yourselves with the best of all the first fruits of Israel set before Me?’ 30 Therefore the Lord God of Israel says, ‘I said indeed that your house and your father’s house would walk before Me forever.’ But now the Lord says, ‘Far be it from Me, for I will honor those who honor Me, and the one who despises Me shall be dishonored. 31 Behold, the days are coming that I will destroy your seed and the seed of the house of your father. 32 And there shall not be an old man descended from you in My house forever. 33 But for you—I will not destroy a man from My altar even though his eyes have failed and his life has drained away. But all the descendants of your house shall fall by men’s swords. 34 ‘Now this shall be the sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas. In one day both of them shall die. 35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do all that is in My heart and in My soul. I will build him a faithful house, and he shall walk before My Christ forever. 36 And it shall come to pass that everyone who remains in your house will, for a small amount of silver, prostrate before him begging, “Place me in the priesthood, so I may eat one loaf of bread?” ’ ”

## **1 Kingdoms 3**

### **The Lord Speaks to Samuel**

1 The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no discerning vision. 2 So on that day, while Eli was lying down in his place, his eyes were starting to grow heavy, barely able to see. 3 Before the lamp of God went out,

and while Samuel was asleep in the temple where the ark of God was, 4 the Lord called, “Samuel, Samuel.” Samuel answered, “Here I am!” 5 So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And Eli said, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.” So he returned and lay down. 6 Then the Lord called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” So Samuel went to Eli a second time, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Eli answered, “I did not call you. Return and lie down.” 7 Now this all happened before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. 8 And the Lord called Samuel again a third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 And he said, “Return, lie down, my child; and if He calls you, you must say, ‘O Lord, speak, for Your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and fell asleep in his place. 10 And the Lord came, and stood and called as before. So Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.” 11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, “Behold! I shall execute My words in Israel, and for everyone hearing them, both ears will tingle. 12 In that day, I will raise up against Eli everything I spoke concerning his house. This I will begin, and I will finish it. 13 For I announced to him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity of his sons. For his sons reviled God, and he did not correct them in any way. 14 I swore to the house of Eli that the iniquity of the house of Eli shall never be atoned for with incense or with sacrifice.” 15 So Samuel fell asleep and rose early in the morning. He opened the doors of the Lord’s house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. 16 Then Eli called to Samuel, “Samuel, my child!” And he answered, “Here I am.” 17 And Eli said, “What was the report the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of what He said to you.” 18 Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, “He is the Lord. He will do what seems good to Him.” 19 So Samuel grew and matured, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground. 20 And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the Lord. 21 The Lord appeared in Shiloh again, for the Lord was revealed to Samuel. And all Israel, from one end of the land to the other, believed Samuel to be a prophet of the Lord. By now Eli was an exceedingly old man, and his sons continued living as they did. And their way was evil before the Lord.