

Gleanings of Grace

1 Samuel 1 and 2:1-11

Lesson 9

In 1 Samuel, history transitions from judges delivering the people, to kings ruling over the people. This book begins with Samuel, the judge who would present to the people Saul, their very first king. The first three chapters describe Samuel's birth and childhood. In this lesson, we will park on the events of Samuel's birth and the glorious prayer of praise proclaimed by his mother, no longer barren, rejoicing in the greatness of the LORD of Hosts.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Samuel 1 and 2:1-11

1. Read 1 Samuel 1 and 2:1-11 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through this section of 1 Samuel, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD* and each of the people marked as key words.
Key Words: *LORD, Elkanah, Hannah, Eli, and Samuel*
3. The contrasting word *but* occurs eight times in this section of 1 Samuel. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The terms of conclusion *therefore* and *because* are used six times. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

Background:

1. Before we delve into the story of Samuel's birth, it would be profitable to look at who this man was. Using Judges 21:25, describe *those days*.
 - a. The priesthood was defiled; the law of Moses was being ignored throughout the land. What does 1 Samuel 3:1 reveal was also lacking?

2. Samuel was the last official judge and the first prophet. Verify this using:

Acts 3:24

Acts 13:20

3. Record what the following verses declare about Samuel.

1 Samuel 2:26

1 Samuel 3:19

1 Samuel 7:13

1 Samuel 7:15

- a. As you reflect upon these verses, what are your thoughts about Samuel?

4. Much of Samuel's grief surrounded his disappointment in Israel's first king. Scan through 1 Samuel 8 and summarize the words of:

the people of Israel

Samuel

God

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-7

1. The first person mentioned in 1 Samuel was a man named *Elkanah*. He *had two wives*. What do verses 2,4, and 5 declare about them?

2. Although the fact that the *LORD had closed Hannah's womb* did not affect her husband's love for her, how did Peninnah, Hannah's *rival*, react to this fact? verses 6,7
3. Why do you think competition tends to arise between family members?
 - a. What challenging questions does Paul present in 1 Corinthians 4:7?
 - 1.) How might this verse apply to the contention between Peninnah and Hannah?
 - b. What can we learn from the advice given in 1 Corinthians 12:25,26?
4. Take note of Hannah's response to Peninnah's *provoking*. Rather than *provoke*, in what ways can we ease the pain of another?
5. Hannah was greatly affected by Peninnah's attacks. What example did Jesus give us regarding suffering because of the actions of others in 1 Peter 2:21-23?
 - a. What do you think this means in daily application?

Challenge: Share other verses that relate to our response to negative actions of others towards us.

Read 1 Samuel 1:8-18

1. Hannah's husband could not understand her *anguish*. Using verse 10, record phrases which describe her sorrow.
2. Hannah took her *anguish* to the LORD in prayer. What did she pray? verse 11
3. Eli, the priest, had been watching Hannah. He mistook her actions and thought she was *drunk* (verses 13,14). What was Hannah's response to Eli's accusations? verses 15,16

4. Eli encouraged her with the words, *Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him*. Eli made no promises to her. He joined her in her request for a child. Although, it was a word from the LORD. According to verse 18, what change in Hannah did Eli see?
 - a. Hannah had no more assurance of having a child before praying than after praying. Yet, her countenance changed. Why does prayer change things?

Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28

1. Elkanah and his family returned home. Record the words of 1 Samuel 1:20.
 - a. The name *Samuel* means “heard of God”. What is the condition and promise of 1 John 5:14,15?
2. Again it was time to *offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice*. Hannah *did not go up*. Why?
3. According to verse 23, Elkanah honored her request. He added, *Only let the LORD establish His word*. David Guzik commented on this passage: “do everything in obedience to God so we may see His word established among us”. Hannah could have gone back on her promise. Certainly no mother would blame her. What do you think it would have been like for Hannah if she had not kept her promise to the LORD?
4. After Samuel had been *weaned*, Hannah brought him *to the house of the LORD*. She reminded Eli who she was and of her prayer. 1 Samuel 1:28 reflects Hannah’s vow the day she prayed. Using verse 28, what was that vow?
 - a. Hannah would leave her little child, Samuel, with Eli, the priest, to live separated to serve the LORD all the days of his life. Record the last sentence of verse 28.
 - 1.) This would have been a painful decision for Hannah. Yet, she *worshiped*. What have you discovered about *worshipping the LORD* in painful times?
 - a.) What are some things you declare to the LORD when you worship Him in times of difficult obedience?

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

1. God graciously recorded Hannah's words of worship in 1 Samuel 2:1-11. What did she declare about herself in verse 1?
 - a. Why can we *smile at our enemies*?

2. Scan through the next nine verses and make a list of a few of the statements Hannah made about the LORD.

3. Share your thoughts as you consider:
 - no one is holy like the LORD* (verse 2)

 - there is no rock like our God* (verse 2)

 - the LORD kills and makes alive* (verse 6)

 - the LORD makes poor and makes rich* (verse 7)

 - the pillars of the earth are the LORD's* (verse 8)

 - He will guard the feet of His saints* (verse 9)

 - He will exalt the horn of His anointed* (verse 10)

4. Hannah also had some words regarding the *wicked*. She used various words to describe those whose actions had displeased the LORD. She may have had her *rival*, Peninnah, in mind. Rather than bitter accusations, we might benefit from seeing the LORD's actions towards those who hurt us. What did Hannah pray that would be good reminders to us when we have been hurt by another?

REVIEW: Read 1 Samuel 1- 2:1-11

1. We can learn what to avoid and what to embrace when we study the lives of others. What did you learn from:

Elkanah

Peninnah

Hannah

Eli

2. What did you learn from this lesson about prayer and worship?

*Give to the LORD the glory due His name;
Bring an offering, and come before Him.
Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!
- 1 Chronicles 16:29*

Observation Worksheet

1 Samuel 1

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. ⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. ⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" ⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. ¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." ¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!" ¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now." ¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." ¹⁸ And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. ¹⁹ Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

²¹ Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."
²³ And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. ²⁴ Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 2:1-11

¹ And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. ² "No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. ³ "Talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the LORD is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed. ⁴ "The bows of the mighty men are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength. ⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, and the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, and she who has many children has become feeble. ⁶ "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. ⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. ⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and He has set the world upon them. ⁹ He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail. ¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed." ¹¹ Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.