

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 5, 2023

THEME: "Samuel"

### HIS MOTHER'S PRAYER

**Sunday ..... Read I Samuel 1:5-10**

*"And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore."* It would not be a mistake to say that all births are a mighty work of God. Each one is amazing. It was God who created the man and the woman and ordered them to replenish the earth. He made them so they could reproduce human beings, and that is how people get into this world: a birth. Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, remained barren, and this caused her very serious mental distress to the point she became bitter. But in that saddened state, Hannah did the right thing; she prayed. So fervent were her prayers in the house of God that Eli the priest actually thought she must be drunk. Her honest and sincere moved the heart of God. Hannah promised God that if He gave her a son that she would dedicate him to serving the Most High God. God answered her prayer, and Hannah's heart overflowed with joy when she realized she was pregnant.

### HIS BIRTH

**Monday ..... Read I Samuel 1:20-22**

*"Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord."* Hannah, immediately upon the successful delivery of her baby Samuel, acknowledged that it was an answer to prayer. She gave glory to God! It was one of the great examples of God's fulfillment of the promise He made to His people in Jeremiah 33:3: *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* And like all other babies, God formed Samuel in the womb of his mother with a plan for his life in mind. That is the assurance we have from Jeremiah 1:5: *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee."* Since God is no respecter of persons, we all can be assured that God had something in mind for our lives when He formed us in our mothers' womb. The greatest joy in life is to know and to fulfill the plan of God!

### HIS MOTHER'S PLEDGE

**Tuesday ..... Read I Samuel 1:26-28**

*"Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord."* When blessed with a baby boy, Hannah remembered the promise that she had made to God, that she would offer him to God for His service as He saw fit. Yes, it would be a sacrifice, but it would be rewarding to see God use her son in such a wonderful way. She kept her promise, and when Samuel became of age, she turned him over to the care of the high priest to be used in the place that focused on the work of God. It may have been hard for Samuel to be separated from his mother and father at such an early age; but it appears that they had reared Samuel in such a way that he placed his trust in God and was willing to surrender to His will. As Hannah looked back on her life, I am certain that she had nothing but precious memories and praise to God for amazing blessings! It is a reminder to us that if we make a vow, we are compelled

to keep the vow for the glory of God. To know and to do the will of God is surely the most rewarding life on earth!

### **SAMUEL'S MENTOR**

**Wednesday ..... Read I Samuel 2:7-11**

*"And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the Lord before Eli the priest."* Hannah was true to her word about dedicating her son to serving God; and to her credit and that of her husband Elkanah, when Samuel was of age, they brought him to the temple and placed him in the care of Eli, the priest. This had to be a special blessing to Eli in that his own sons did not follow his lead, and they became worldly in their lifestyles. Eli encouraged Samuel to be a man of faith. The most valuable lesson that Eli taught Samuel was when he advised Samuel that it was God speaking to him when Samuel was confused about the voice he was hearing. We read this comment of Eli to Samuel in I Samuel 3:9-10: *"Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place."* Eli taught Samuel how to discern the voice of the Lord!

### **GOD'S CALL**

**Thursday ..... Read I Samuel 3:3-11**

*"That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I."* While working under Eli's supervision in his young life, Samuel became a true servant of God. When Samuel seemed to be confused about the voice of God saying this as we read in I Samuel 3:9: *"Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place."* Now realizing it was God speaking, Samuel listened and it was the first step in following God directly. That resulted eventually in Samuel's becoming what we read in I Samuel 3:20: *"And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord."*

### **GOD'S MESSAGE**

**Friday ..... Read I Samuel 3:15-18**

*"And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good."* When Samuel had to tell King Saul what God had revealed was not easy because it was not good news. Eli's sons were wayward, apparently without reprimand from their father. They surely were not going to do the nation any good with the lifestyle they had chosen, so God told Samuel that He was going to take them out. Being the honest man that he was, Samuel complied with Eli's request and gave him the bad news with an emphasis on the fact that God's ways are best.

### **GOD'S COMMAND**

**Saturday ..... Read I Samuel 8:4-9**

*"And the Lord said to Samuel, Harken unto their voice, and make them a king."* The general population of Israel was demanding that they have a king to rule in the land. Like other nations. Up to this time, God had appointed leaders to rule under His command, and that had brought His chosen people into a promised land. They had been able under God's leadership expressed in His chosen leaders to defeat any and all opposition, nations with kings. Little did they realize that this desire to be like other nations would create many problems in the future. Not following God's leadership is to be deceived by the rulers of darkness. That is the warning of God in Ephesians 6:12: "

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world."* Eventually God used Samuel to crown a king; and in the long run, God will make good out of what seems bad. He truly does as He premised in Romans 8:28: *"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."* Jesus will come to be the King of kings to rule the world!