

In our last lesson we talked about Naomi and Ruth. Ruth was a very good person to help Naomi. Ruth married a man named Boaz and had a son named Obed. Our study today takes us into the book of 1 Samuel.

There was a man named Elkanah who lived in Ephraim. Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not have any. (1 Samuel 1:2) Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. Peninnah said mean things to Hannah because she had no children. That made Hannah feel even worse.

Every year Elkanah went to Shiloh to worship God and make sacrifices to Him. (1 Samuel 1:3) Hannah was so sad about not having a child that she went to the tabernacle to pray. The priest at the tabernacle was Eli. Eli was also a judge of Israel.

Hannah prayed very hard that God would give her a son. Hannah told God that if He would give her a son, she would give him to the service of the Lord. (1 Samuel 1:11) Hannah prayed to God all that she felt in her heart. Eli saw Hannah. He saw her mouth moving but he did not hear her voice.

Eli spoke to Hannah. Hannah told Eli that she was praying and telling God all that was in her heart. Eli told Hannah to go in peace. He told Hannah that God would give her what she prayed for. Hannah went on her way. She was not sad any more. She was very happy.

God heard Hannah's prayer. Hannah had a son. She named him Samuel because it meant "asked of God". Samuel was an answer to Hannah's prayers. Hannah was so happy to have her son. Hannah did not return to Shiloh with her husband until her son was a little older.

When Samuel was a little older, Hannah returned to Shiloh. Hannah was so thankful that God had given her a son. It was time for her to give Samuel over to serve the Lord. Hannah brought Samuel to Eli. Hannah left Samuel to live with Eli in the tabernacle.

Even though Samuel was very young, he worked for the Lord. Samuel wore an ephod just like the priests wore. Hannah went each year for the annual worship and brought new clothes to him. Samuel was truly a servant of the Lord. He lived with Eli in a place that was attached to the tabernacle. Samuel helped Eli in many ways because Eli was getting old.

One night when Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call his name. Samuel thought it was Eli. He ran to Eli and asked him what he wanted. Eli told Samuel that he did not call him. Samuel went back to his bed. Again he heard someone call "Samuel!". Again Samuel went to Eli. Eli told Samuel that when he heard the voice again, he should say, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears." (1 Samuel 3:9)

Samuel went back to bed. Again he heard a voice say, “Samuel, Samuel!”. And Samuel answered, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.” (1 Samuel 3:12-14) The Lord spoke to Samuel. God told Samuel that He was going to judge Eli’s house because of how wicked his sons were. Samuel was upset over this prophecy. He was afraid to tell Eli. But, Samuel knew he had to tell him. He told Eli all that God had told him.

Samuel was a prophet of God even as a child. As Samuel grew up, people realized that he was a prophet of the Lord. The things that Samuel spoke of, did happen. God was with Samuel and gave him the words to speak.

Samuel was one of the last judges. Samuel was also a great prophet. Samuel told of the days that would come when the church would be established by Christ.