

I SAMUEL 1; March 16; Samuel's Birth & Dedication

ANALYSIS:

1. How did Hannah's adversary, Peninnah, provoke her and attempt to make her fret? _____
2. What did Elkanah tell Hannah in an attempt to cheer her up? _____
_____ Did it work? _____
3. Why did Eli think that Hannah had been drinking when he saw her in the temple? _____
4. What caused Hannah to put away her sadness and eat food again?

5. What does the name, Samuel, mean? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

This chapter tells us something very special in verse 19: that the LORD remembered Hannah. Don't think for a minute that the LORD had ever forgotten her. No, this just means that the LORD was going to give her the desire of her heart, a man child. Hannah had prayed diligently in great bitterness of soul and with many tears, and the LORD graciously heard her prayer and wonderfully gave her what she had requested. The LORD our God hears and answers the prayers of those who trust in him and who seek him with all their hearts. Rejoice today that the great God of heaven remembers you.

When Hannah prayed to the LORD for a man child, she vowed that she would give him to the LORD as a nazirite forever. And notice that even though this was Hannah's first child and that she had apparently been barren for some time, she was very careful to fulfill her vow to the LORD. There is no indication that Hannah ever wavered in her heart with respect to her vow to the LORD about Samuel. She had determined that Samuel would be the LORD'S for life. The LORD expects us to keep our vows to him. It is better not to vow, than to vow and not pay to the LORD (Eccl 5:4-5).

HELP:

1. Apparently Peninnah reminded Hannah often that she had no children (v 6).
2. Elkanah asked Hannah, "Am not I better to thee than ten sons?" (v 8) No, this did not cheer up Hannah, although it was certainly a gracious attempt by her husband (vs 9-16).
3. Because Eli saw her lips moving but could not hear her voice (v 13).
4. Hannah was cheered when Eli, God's prophet/priest, spoke to her and said, "Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him." (v 17)
5. "Because I have asked him of the LORD" (v 20).