

The Book of 1 SAMUEL

**Getting Deep with God:
Hannah's Cry to the Lord
(1 Samuel 1:1-20)**

1 Samuel 1:1-20

- **1** There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.
- **2** He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

1 Samuel 1:1-20

- ³ Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. ⁴ On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.
- ⁶ And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷ So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore, Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸ And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

1 Samuel 1:1-20

- ⁹ After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord.
- ¹⁰ She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. ¹¹ And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

1 Samuel 1:1-20

- ¹² As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore, Eli took her to be a drunken woman.
- ¹⁴ And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” ¹⁵ But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.”
- ¹⁷ Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” ¹⁸ And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

1 Samuel 1:1-20

- ¹⁹ They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her.
- ²⁰ And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the Lord.”

Historical Timeline

- **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: c. 2100-1900 B.C.**
- Joseph and his brothers: c. 1900 B.C. travel to Egypt
- Slavery in Egypt: c. 1840-1440 B.C. (400 years)
- **Exodus: c. 1440-1400 B.C. (Moses)**
- Joshua: c. 1400-1350 B.C.
- **Period of the Judges: c. 1350-1020 B.C.**
- Book of Ruth is set during the period of the judges
- 40 Year Philistine Oppression: c. 1090s-1050s B.C.
- Samson as judge: c. 1075-1050 B.C.
- **Samuel as judge: c. 1050-1020 B.C.**
- Saul's reign: c. 1020-1000 B.C.
- David's reign: c. 1000-960 B.C.

Cast of Characters

- **Samuel:** a priest, prophet, and last “judge” (religious and military leader) of Israel
- Samuel lived approximately 1100-1020 B.C.
- The Philistines (“Sea People”): a fierce warrior people, migrated from Crete c. 1150 B.C. and were the most persistent threat to the Israelites during the period of the judges (c. 1350-1050 B.C.)
- *Samuel represents a time of transition in Israel’s history from judges to kings*
- **Samuel:** son of **Elkanah** (father) and **Hannah** (mother)
- **Peninnah:** Elkanah’s second wife, and antagonist to Hannah
- **Eli:** a decent priest who had two corrupt sons, Hophni and Phinehas (also priests)

“Exposition” of the Narrative

1 Samuel 1:1-2

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- **2** He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Shame vs. Guilt

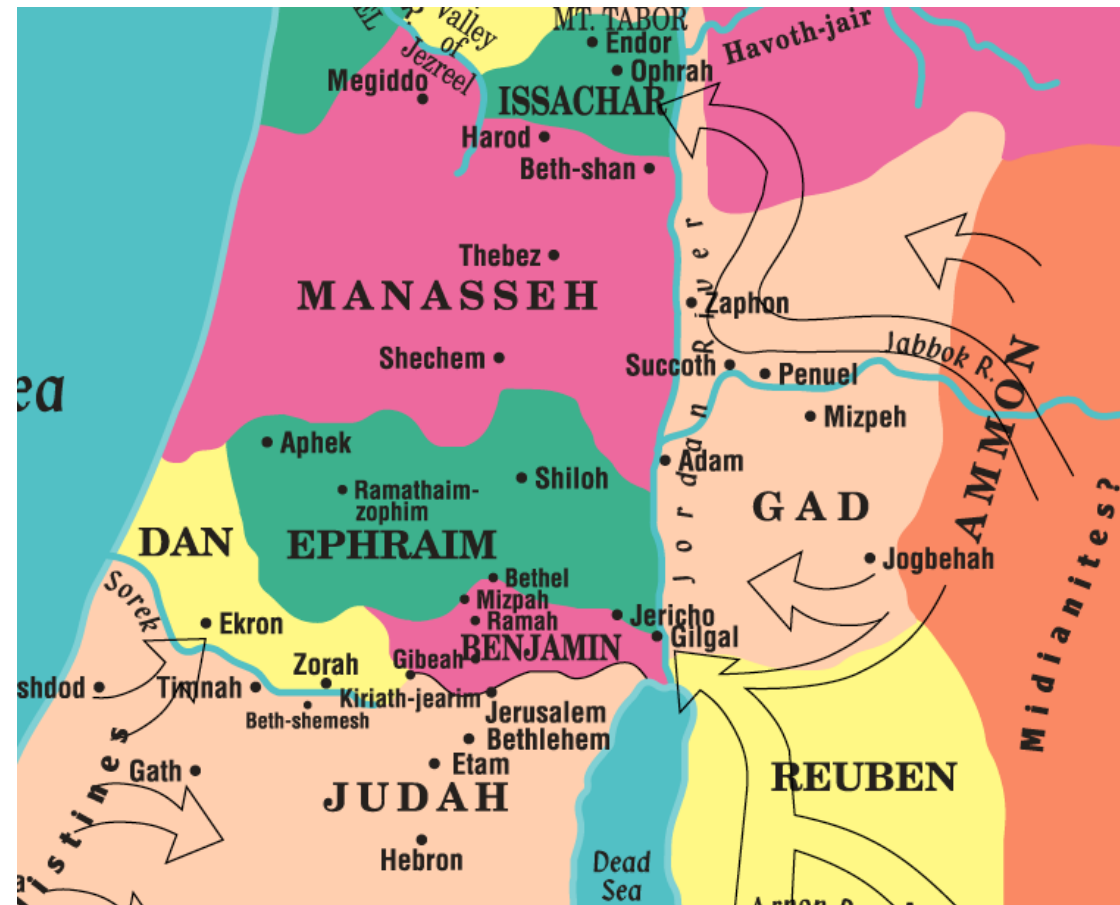
- **Guilt:** “The objective state of being responsible for a wrongdoing or transgression. Guilt is not an emotion or feeling; rather, guilt is the status of being in the wrong.”
- **Shame:** “The subjective, personal, and painful emotional experience that occurs when one feels disconnected. It is a painful awareness of feeling inadequate, unworthy, and exposed.”
- **Imposed Shame:** A type of shame. “A sense of shame that is imposed by one person on another. Someone else is causing the disconnection . . . Repeated imposed shame over time can profoundly affect a person.”
- Source: *Overcoming Guilt and Shame*, by Daniel Green and Mel Lawrenz, pp. 140-41.

Shiloh: The Center of Worship

1 Samuel 1:3

- ³ Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord.

Shiloh: Home of the Ark of the Covenant



What's In the Ark?

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT



- Two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments
- A gold jar filled with manna
- Aaron's staff (that bloomed with almond leaves)

Family Strife

1 Samuel 1:3-8

- ⁴ On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ **But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her,** though the Lord had closed her womb.
- ⁶ And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷ So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore, Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸ And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? **Am I not more to you than ten sons?”**

Husbands, love your wives

- ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
- ³¹ “Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ **However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

--Ephesians 5:22,25,31-33

Getting Deep with God: Hannah's Cry to the Lord



Getting Deep with God

1 Samuel 1:9-11

- ⁹ After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord.
- ¹⁰ **She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.** ¹¹ And **she vowed a vow** and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then **I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.**”

Nazarites

- (Hebrew: *nazir*)
- “Men or women who consecrated themselves to God for a specific time by a special vow (Numbers 6:1-21). During the period of consecration, Nazirites had to abstain from alcoholic drink and leave their hair uncut. Their special status as ‘holy to the Lord’ also required that they be especially careful to avoid contact with a corpse.”

--Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible

A Case of Mistaken Identity

1 Samuel 1:2-18

- ¹² As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore, Eli took her to be a drunken woman.
- ¹⁴ And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” ¹⁵ But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but **I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.** ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.”
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A Prayer Answered

1 Samuel 1:1-20

- ¹⁹ They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord **remembered** her.
- ²⁰ And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name **Samuel**, for she said, “**I have asked for him from the Lord.**”

Takeaways

- A. Virtuous People Can Arise Even During Morally Decrepit Times
- B. “Getting Real” in Prayer Requires a “Letting Go”
- C. Growing in the Lord is a Process
 - 1. Understandable Frustration
 - 2. Unanticipated Faith
 - 3. Unexpected Fulfillment
- D. Spiritual Maturity Manifests Itself through Calm and Confident Faith



Let Us Pray:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”
(Luke 1:46-47)

