

## AND SHE WAS IN BITTERNESS OF SOUL

### 1 SAMUEL 1:1 – 28

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~ Many people today are trying everything they can to avoid the consequences of their sins. Well, God says He is not mocked. Whatever we sow in this life we shall surely reap. I don't know you but, if you are honest, you will admit that is precisely correct. I know it has been in my own life, and some of it is just not good – even after being saved for a very long time. Many people are simply not willing to deal with the results of their own sins. Most seem to think that, because our sins are forgiven, that the consequences are made moot by the Lord. How wrong those people really are!

**Our Spiritual Safari** is now going to take up all three double books from the Bible: Samuel, Kings and Chronicles. First and second Samuel will lay out the origin of the kingdom of Israel. This will become a critical subject to understand as we continue in the Old Testament. It is also very important to understand for the remainder of the New Testament; in which we will resume at Romans when we return there. John the Baptist said to repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! The Kingdom of Heaven that John Baptist spoke about is likely not the Kingdom you are thinking of – we're talking about the Kingdom of Israel, and it has a very long and detailed historical place. It also has specific geographical borders with kings, princes, princesses and other very real persons within; and, also, a very earthly origin.

Samuel is classified as only one book in the Jewish canons. I, personally, believe Samuel should be considered as just one book – so that's how we will approach it on safari. In the Latin vulgate, Samuel is the first two of four books of kings. This Book of Samuel is so named because he is the first prominent person in the account, as well as the fact that Samuel wrote most of these records. Samuel is the author up to the twenty-fifth chapter which records his death. It is widely accepted that Nathan and Gad completed the writing from there.

*1 Chronicles 29:29 Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer ~*

*1 Samuel 10:25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house ~*

This, of course, is the book we're talking about. There will be many things in this study that should be very familiar features to you if you are a Christian. We have the rise of the Kingdom; the account of Hannah; the childhood of Samuel; the history of David and Goliath; the friendship between David and Jonathan; King Saul's visit to the witch of Endor; God's covenant with David; David's awful sin in the Bathsheba affair; David's rebellious son Absalom and we also see that Samuel is the one who poured the anointing oil on both Saul and David.

Likewise, there are three subjects that can be incorporated into a theme of this book. **(1) Prayer** is number one because 1 Samuel opens with a prayer and 2 Samuel closes with a prayer. In between there is also a whole lot of prayer. **(2) Another theme is the Kingdom**; we will see here the change of governmental form from a theocracy to a kingdom as God makes His covenant with David. **(3) The rise of the office of the prophet**; which will become the messenger of God in place of the priest. Remember, when Israel was a theocracy, God spoke and moved through the priesthood. However, when the priesthood failed, as we will see in this book, the Lord sets them aside and begins to raise up prophets and place a king on the throne. This is NOT an improvement by any means – what we see develop is deterioration – and it may be hard to imagine things could get worse after the studies we took up from Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges – but it does.

God's form of government is a kingdom with a King, which is ideal. God intends to put a King on a throne down here again someday! When that happens, we will have a wonderful King and there will be blessings – not a curse – upon this earth. There is no problem with any form of government; be it a monarchy, dictatorship, autocratic rule or democracy – the trouble is

always in the hearts of the people connected with said government! Today, some people even seem to be attempting to make governments NOT work! As most of you know, I do not subscribe to this churchy kingdom building stuff and the king is coming and all that. That makes it seem as if man is going to do it for God. That's way off base. See, when the Lord Jesus Christ is ruling down here, we won't have a poverty program, we won't have an ecological program, and we sure won't have an immoral program as we do today. We will have righteousness and peace covering the earth as the atmosphere covers us today. You won't have any part making that happen, friends. He will dash the rebellion with an iron rod like a potter's vessel – but let's allow Him to handle that.

Now, we will meet some very good, outstanding and interesting persons in our next very many reports. God wants you to become acquainted with these people because He wants you to run with a good crowd! We are also going to meet a very definite crowd to shun. There is a striking contrast between the characters in Samuel and those we considered in Judges. Remember, every single judge we met in the Book of Judges had some terrific fault and defect in their personality. Here, we are going to meet some exemplary men and women.

Now, to be sure, this kingdom shadows the coming of the millennial kingdom in some respects. We will also see certain global truths regarding the setting up of that kingdom. There are three things this world most definitely needs: **(1)** A king with power who exercises that power righteously. **(2)** A king who will be in full dependence upon God and who can be trusted with the power given him, and **(3)** A king who is in total and complete obedience to God! The problem is: there is no party or person alive who can be trusted with power today.

Our safari will now move much more quickly than we did in Acts and John. We do not outline our books as a normal Bible study would because we are not interested in theology or doctrine – we are only after the spiritual applications when they can be made. So, with that, we will begin reading from first Samuel and we have quite an exercise in pronunciation as well as starting out on the wrong foot in verse two as we see a man with two wives. I know someone will say that this means God approves of polygamy.

Well, if you'll read this record correctly, you'll find out God very definitely did NOT approve of having two wives; and this is no happy home as a result. If you have two wives, and one is bearing children but the other isn't, you have the recipe for family disaster. I think Hannah was one of the most miserable people alive in the beginning of this account. The fact that certain things are recorded in Scripture does not mean that God approves of them, friends. The Word of God always gives the facts – both good and bad – concerning the history and persons and events of the record at hand. The lies of Satan, for instance, are recorded - but that doesn't mean God approves of lying. We saw the record of sin in Adam and Eve, Abraham and others in Genesis, but God didn't approve of any of their rebellion. Abraham took his maid Hagar and had a son to which God showed His utmost disapproval. The fruits of that specific sin of Abraham are still in existence today in the Muslim and Islamic people! Ishmael is the father of the Arabians, friends. Arab's are always quick to point out they are the sons of Abraham – and that's true – but God didn't and doesn't approve of them. Look what's happening today in those lands. There is unspeakable trouble that is evidence God isn't blessing them....

***1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:***

***2 And 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.***

***3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.***

~ It has troubled many Bible teachers attempting to explain why the sons of Eli were there. We'll see that reason later on. See, going up to the tabernacle wasn't what we typically imagine it to be. These sons of Eli made the tabernacle a very dangerous place to worship; because they are actually sons of Belial – the devil! The atmosphere around and in the temple was not a good place to be. Many times, the worst possible place

anyone can go is to a church. Some people wish they could have been in that upper room with Jesus; I guess they don't realize that was the place where Satan was that night. We're told the devil had entered Judas so the upper room was the most dangerous place anyone could have been. So, going to worship God has some very real problems and difficulties attached – because there is always evil present there....

***4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:***

***5 But unto Hannah he gave a much larger portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.***

***6 And her adversary, the other wife, also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.***

***7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.***

***8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?***

***9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.***

***10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.***

***11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.***

***12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.***

***13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.***

~ Have you ever tried praying when you were in bitterness of soul? It's not easy, friends. This is where Hannah vows to make her son a Nazarite if she has one. She vows to set this son aside for the total and complete service to God. Eli was the high priest, and this is quite a sidelight into the conditions of that day and into the lives and times around the temple. I think most people were drunk most of the time there. We're going to find out these sons of Eli were nothing but drunken carousers; and old man Eli was an indulgent father who knew all about it but shut his eyes to their sins. So, when Hannah came and prayed with all her heart and mind and soul, naturally, old man Eli assumed she had to be drunk, too – but he's not shutting his eyes to her imagined sin. What a picture this paints for us. This was not the best place to come to. In fact, it wasn't a good place to be at all....

***14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.***

***15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.***

***16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.***

***17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.***

***18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.***

**19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.**

**20 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.**

**21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.**

**22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.**

**23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.**

**24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young.**

**25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.**

**26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.**

**27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:**

**28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.**

~ We don't see many people praying like Hannah did; I mean, to the point where people think we're drunk! At least Eli realized his mistake. The name Samuel means "asked of the Lord." Hannah asked and she received. So,

this report closes with the opening of a book and with the cry of a Godly woman. While the people were crying out for a king, this woman was crying out for a child. God is going to build the throne on that cry! See, when a woman takes her exalted place, then God builds her a throne. We're going to see Hannah's prayer in the next report. Why don't you read ahead through chapter two right now? As you do, see if you can find the first mention of the Messiah.

This is quite a contrast to modern world philosophy. The contemporary woman demands abortion as her right to deal with the consequences of sin. This woman wanted a child to dedicate to the Lord. When a person sins, they will bear the fruit of that sin – one way or another! Any woman that has employed abortion as a contraception will tell you – if they are honest – that it was the worst mistake they ever made. People today will do almost anything to attempt to kill the fruit of their sins. Well, God says, "be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap!" We're living in a day where people want to sin and then simply claim Christ will cover it up and look the other way while giving them a nod and a wink. It's a tragic day of deception in our modern times ~