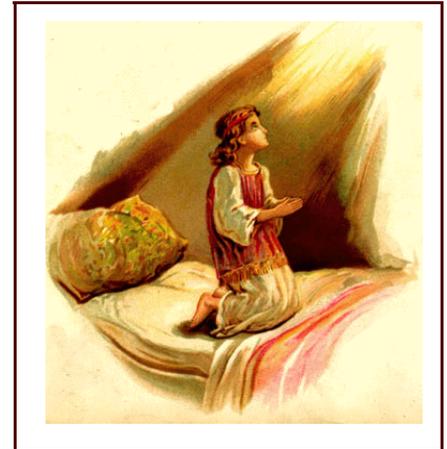


Samuel

1 Samuel 1 - 7

*Have you heard of Samuel?
Do you know what is happening in this picture of him?
He would grow up to be a great prophet of the LORD.
Let's read now about Samuel, God's prophet.*



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we study the lesson of Samuel. Help us to learn from Your Word so that we can grow up to serve You as Samuel did. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story

A man by the name of Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children, which made her very sad.

Elkanah went yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD in Shiloh. On one of these temple visits Hannah prayed to the LORD and made a vow saying, "O LORD, if You will look on me in my sadness and will give me a son, I will give him to You all the days of his life."

Hannah spoke in her heart, but her lips moved and Eli the priest of the temple thought she was drunk. Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk?"

Hannah answered, "No, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I am not drunk, but have poured out my soul before the LORD."

Then Eli said, "Go in peace, and God grant your prayer which you have asked of Him."

Hannah and Elkanah returned to their house at Ramah. Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son, Samuel.

Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice but Hannah did not go along until Samuel was old enough to live

without her nursing him.

Now when he was old enough, Hannah took him up with her, along with an offering, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. They brought the child, Samuel, to Eli. Hannah said, "I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD for this child. The LORD has answered my prayer and I have lent him to the LORD for as long as he lives."

Hannah then said a prayer of praise. From then on Samuel lived in the temple and helped Eli the priest.

The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were also priests but they were corrupt. They did not love and obey the LORD, but sinned against the people and the work of the temple. The sin of these young men was very great before the LORD.

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child. He wore a special linen skirt and every year Hannah would make him a robe and bring it to him as she came to make the yearly sacrifice with Elkanah. The LORD was with Hannah so that she also gave birth to three sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before



the LORD. Now Eli was very old; and he heard all the sinful things his sons did to all Israel, but he did not try very hard to stop them from sinning.

One night, while Eli was lying down in his room and Samuel was lying down in his room, the LORD called Samuel. Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again." Samuel went and lay down.

Then the LORD called again, "Samuel!" So Samuel went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

The LORD called Samuel again the third time. Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you did call me."

Then Eli knew that the LORD had called Samuel. Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down and if He calls you say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'"

So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

Then the LORD told Samuel about the judgment the LORD would send on Eli and his family for the sins of Hophni and Phinehas. So Samuel lay down and was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

Then Eli called Samuel and said, "What is the word that the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me."

Then Samuel told him everything, and Eli said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."

So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and the people listened to his words from the LORD. And all Israel knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines and were defeated by them.

The Israelites said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."

So the people sent to Shiloh for the ark of the covenant and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the

covenant of God.

Now when the Philistines fought them, Israel was defeated and the ark of God was captured. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were killed.

Then a man ran from the battle and came to Shiloh. Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for he was worried about the ark of God. Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see. And when the man came into the city and told how the battle was lost and the ark stolen, all of the people cried out.

When Eli heard the noise he said, "What does the sound of this tumult mean?"

And the man came quickly and told Eli, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."

Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward and he died, for the man was old and heavy. Eli had judged Israel forty years. Phinehas' wife also died that day giving birth to a son. The judgment of God had come to pass.

When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the temple of Dagon, their false god, in the city of Ashdod. The next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again, and the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face before the ark of the LORD. The head and arms of Dagon were broken off. Because the Philistines had taken the ark of the covenant, the LORD struck them with tumors. And when the men saw how it was, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us." They said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath."

So they carried the ark of the God to Gath, but the people of Gath also were struck with tumors. Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron.

When the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!. Send away the ark of the God of Israel,

and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us." The ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months before it was returned to Israel. Then Samuel spoke to all of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver

you from the hand of the Philistines."

So the children of Israel put away the false gods and served the LORD only. The Philistines were subdued, and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. Then the cities which the Philistines had taken were restored to Israel. Samuel was a prophet of Israel all the days of his life.

Outer Aim - God provided a spiritual leader for Israel.

What the Story Tells Us - Match the name with the correct description.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ Hannah | A. The faithful prophet of God |
| _____ Elkanah | B. The false god of the Philistines |
| _____ Eli | C. The wicked sons of Eli |
| _____ Samuel | D. Samuel's mother |
| _____ Hophni and Phinehas | E. The other wife of Elkanah |
| _____ Philistines | F. The enemies of God's people |
| _____ Dagon | G. The priest in the temple |
| _____ Penninah | H. Samuel's father |

What God's Word Tells Us - Read the following Bible passage and discuss the questions that follow.

Acts 17:10-11 - Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

1. Who are the people preaching God's Word in this Acts passage?
2. To what city had they gone?
3. How did the people make sure the words of the preachers were true?
4. How should we make sure the words of our pastors and teachers are true?

Passages

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Psalms 1:6 - For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Hymn - TLH #296 v. 1, 4

Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,
To Thy Word I now give heed;
Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,
All Thy Word is true indeed.
Death's dread pow'r in me is rife;
Jesus, may Thy Word of Life
Fill my soul with love's strong fervor
That I cling to Thee forever.

Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,
May Thy words take root in me;
May this gift from heav'n enrich me
So that I bear fruit for Thee!
Take them never from my heart
Till I see Thee as Thou art,
When in heav'nly bliss and glory
I shall greet Thee and adore Thee. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have given us Your Word. By it You guide us to live lives pleasing to You. You lead us to believe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior from sin and eternal damnation. As You gave the Israelites a faithful teacher in Samuel, so give us faithful pastors and teachers to teach what we should believe and do according to Your Word. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.