



STORY

6/9/06

Samuel - 1 Samuel 1-7

TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You who are the source of all true wisdom, be with me as I teach these children the material contained in this lesson. Help me to present the truths that You would have them learn in such a way that they will keep them in their hearts and apply them to their lives so that their faith in our gracious God may grow. Keep us all trusting for forgiveness and eternal life in our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. Amen.

VOCABULARY

ephah - a measure holding just over three-fourths bushel

horn - strength

abhor - detest, be disgusted by

ephod - a vest with an onyx stone on each shoulder, the names of six of the sons of Israel engraved on each.

cherubim - the golden angels at either end of the ark

tumult - uproar made by a crowd

Dagon - Philistine idol with the face, hands and upper parts of the body of a man; the lower parts tapered into the tail of a fish.

tumors - possibly a symptom of bubonic plague which is spread by the fleas on rats.

diviners - fortune-tellers

consecrated - set apart, usually for sacred purposes

OUTER AIM

God provided a son for Hannah and, in the same person, a new spiritual leader for Israel.

INNER AIM

God still provides for the spiritual needs of His people by sending faithful pastors and teachers. We are to accept them and to reject the false pastors and teachers.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. I, pp. 270-277)

For about 450 years after Joshua's death, Israel was a theocracy, ruled by God through the law which He had given His people. However, the people often forgot about God and His will and worshipped heathen idols. God would send enemies to invade their land and afflict them. When they remembered God,

repented of their sin and asked God for help, He would send someone, a judge, to lead them against the enemy and free the people from foreign rule. Samuel was the last of the judges. He led the people back to the worship of the true God.

Chapter 1

vs. 1-7 Elkanah, Samuel's father, had two wives. Penninah had children. Hannah did not. Hannah was loved by her husband. Jealousy led Penninah to taunt Hannah about her not having children.

vs. 8-13 Grief over her childlessness caused Hannah to pour out her misery to the Lord at the tabernacle. She promised that if God gave her a son, she would give him to the service of God. She prayed silently, only her lips moved.

vs. 14-18 Eli, the priest, jumped to the conclusion that Hannah was drunk. He scolded her. Hannah protested that she had drunk nothing. She was only bringing her grief to the Lord. Eli realized his mistake and encouraged her to believe that God would give her what she had asked.

vs. 19-23 In due time, Hannah bore a son and called him Samuel. Hannah did not go to the yearly sacrifice. She said she would remain at home until Samuel was weaned. Then she would take him to the priest and leave him there.

vs. 24-28 When the time came, Hannah took her son and sacrifices with her to the house of the Lord. After the sacrifices were offered, Hannah brought Samuel to Eli. She explained that she was the woman who had been praying in the tabernacle. God had answered her prayer for a son. Now she was leaving him to the Lord for the rest of his life.

Chapter 2

vs. 1-11 Hannah sings praises to God and rejoices in the salvation He provides. She especially mentions God's justice in dealing with people.

vs. 12-17 The sons of Eli, the priest, were very wicked. They made a mockery of the offerings by taking the best meat for themselves. They greatly offended the worshipers.

vs. 18-21 Each year Hannah would bring her son a new robe when she came to worship. Eli blessed her and her husband. The Lord gave Hannah three sons and two daughters.

vs. 22-26 Eli's sons continued in their wicked ways. Eli scolded them but they would not listen. Samuel grew and found favor with God and man.

vs. 27-36 A man of God pointed out to Eli the sad state of affairs in the priestly office. He warned that punishment would come upon Eli's family. The sign would be the death of Eli's two sons on the same day. Then God would raise up a faithful priest.

Chapter 3

vs. 1-14 The Lord came to Samuel at night and revealed to him that He would release His wrath upon Eli and his sons because of the wickedness that Eli did not stop.

vs. 15-18 Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God told him. Eli persuaded him to talk and accepted God's judgment as revealed to him by Samuel.

vs. 19-4:1 Samuel grew and the people realized that he was a prophet of the Lord. God spoke through Samuel.

Chapter 4

vs. 2-5 Israel was defeated in battle by the Philistines. Without consulting God, the Israelites decided to take the ark of the covenant with them for the next battle as a good luck charm. When the ark came into the camp, the soldiers of Israel shouted loudly.

vs. 6-10 The Philistines were terrified when they learned that the ark was in the Israelite camp. They knew what God had done for the Israelites in Egypt. With little hope of winning, they went into battle and won a decisive victory over the Israelites. They captured the ark and killed Eli's two sons.

vs. 11-18 A messenger brought Eli the news that the Israelites had been badly defeated, the ark had been lost and his two sons had been killed. Eli fell backward from his seat and died of a broken neck.

vs. 19-22 After hearing the news that the ark had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, the wife of Phinehas gave birth to a son. Before she, too, died, she named her son, Ichabod, meaning, "The glory has departed."

Chapter 5

vs. 1-5 The captured ark was taken to Ashdod and placed in the temple of Dagon, the fish-man god of the Philistines. Two days in a row the idol was found face-down before the ark, the second day with its head and hands broken off.

vs. 6-12 The people of Ashdod felt God's wrath. They were stricken with tumors. The ark was moved to Gath where the people suffered the same calamities. From there it was taken to Ekron with the same deadly results.

Chapter 6

vs. 1-6 The desperate Philistines wanted to send the ark back to Israel. Their wise men told them to send an offering along with it, five golden tumors and five golden rats (mice).

vs. 7-12 A new cart was made to carry the ark. Two untrained milk cows were hitched to the cart. Their calves were taken away from them. The cows' natural reaction would be to refuse to pull the cart and to stay near their calves. If they would take the road to the land of Israel, it would be a sign that God had

caused the evil to the Philistines. If they refused to leave their calves, the evil was by chance alone. The cows headed straight for Israel and did not turn aside. The lords of the Philistines followed to see what would happen.

vs. 13-16 When the cart reached Beth Shemesh in Israel, the people rejoiced to see the ark. They chopped up the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord. The Philistine rulers returned home.

vs. 17-7:1 The golden tumors were a trespass offering, one for each of the five chief Philistine cities. There was a golden rat for each of the cities and villages of the Philistines. The Lord killed some of the men of Beth Shemesh for looking into the ark. (The reading of the Hebrew is difficult and perhaps means that of the 50,000 men in the area, God struck 70.) The men of Beth Shemesh were afraid and didn't want to keep the ark. They asked the men of Kirjath Jearim to take it. They did.

Chapter 7

vs. 2-4 Samuel carried out a reformation. He persuaded the people to put away the worship of heathen idols.

vs. 5-8 Samuel called the people to Mizpah for a service of repentance. The Philistines mistook the gathering as the preparation for attacking them.

vs. 9-12 A sacrifice was offered by Samuel. He prayed for the Lord to help them. The Lord sent a tremendous thunderstorm which confused the Philistines. The Israelites attacked and God gave them a great victory. Samuel set up a memorial stone and called it Ebenezer, "So far the Lord has helped us."

STUDENT 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.

PRESENTATION

God gives His people what they need. He does it in His way and when He thinks it best. The Israelites had been turning away from God to worship heathen idols. This was due in part to the weakness of Eli and the wickedness of his sons, Phinehas and Hophni. God began to prepare for a new religious leader by answering Hannah's prayer for a son. When Samuel was old enough, he went to live with Eli. In this way God arranged to have Samuel trained for his work as a priest and a judge. God spoke to Samuel and revealed that He would punish Eli and his family for their unfaithfulness.

God used the Philistines to bring about the change in religious leadership. They defeated the Israelites in

battle and captured the ark of the covenant. Eli's sons were killed in battle. Eli died from a fall when he heard that the ark had been lost. The Lord caused so much death and misery among the Philistines that they returned the ark seven months later. Samuel led the people of Israel to repent of their sins and the Lord gave them a great victory over the Philistines. Samuel was a faithful priest and judge until he died.

APPLICATION

Our Savior prayed to His heavenly Father, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." It is absolutely necessary that people know about, and be led to believe in, the true God and His Son Jesus. Anyone who interferes with such knowledge and faith angers God. Such was the case of Eli and his sons. God knew what would happen and planned years ahead how He would remove them and provide a new spiritual leader for His people.

The world has not changed. Unfaithful pastors and teachers are common. God has provided the means by which people may protect themselves from such false teachers. He has given us His Word, the Bible, by which we learn what is true. By comparing what we hear and read with what Scripture says, we can tell the right from the wrong. We are to support what is according to Scripture. We are to flee that which is contrary to Scripture. We pray that the Lord would provide us with faithful pastors and teachers.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Ps. 1:6 - The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Ps. 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me.

Matt. 21:22 - All things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

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

Col. 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

HYMN CHOICES

Before Jehovah's Awe-full Throne - TLH #13

The Lord hath Helped Me Hitherto - TLH #33

Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth - TLH 296

The Man Is Ever Blest - TLH #414

God Moves in a Mysterious Way - TLH #514