1 Samuel 1:1 – 12:25

**Chapter 1: Summary**

Hannah is the barren 1st wife of a man named Elkanah. Peninnah was the 2nd wife of Elkanah (Polygamy was common) and she had children. Hannah is harassed and troubled by her inability to have children so while her husband is offering a sacrifice to God at Shiloh (a holy place) she prays to God asking for help. Eli sees Hannah praying and after initially thinking she was drunk, he blesses her. Hannah conceives and bears a son whom she names Samuel. When Samuel is weaned Hannah dedicates him to the Lord.

A    Pilgrimage from Ramah to Shiloh (1:1-8)
    B    Hannah's prayer (1:9-11)
        C    Hannah weeps with Eli (1:12-18)
            D    Return to Ramah from Shiloh (1:19a)
                X   Hannah's prayer answered; Samuel is born (1:19b-22)
            D′    Pilgrimage from Ramah to Shiloh (1:23)
        C′    Hannah rejoices with Eli (1:24-28)
    B′    Hannah's hymn (2:1-10)
A′    Return to Ramah from Shiloh (2:11)

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**Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11**

What are some themes present in this hymn?

**1 Samuel 2:12-36: Summary**

The Priest Eli had two wicked sons, they stole meat from the burnt offerings and lived with “contempt for the Lord”. A man (of God) comes to Eli and tells him that his sons will die (not take over the role of high priest) but God continues… “I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always.”

**Read 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1**

**Describe Samuel’s relationship with God.**

**How does Samuel know God is speaking?**

*(Enterthebible.org) -* Eli's age, blindness, location in his own room, and sleep contrast sharply with Samuel's youth, visions, location at the ark, and wakefulness. The lack of God's word in verse 1 similarly contrasts with Samuel as the designated spokesperson for God at Shiloh in 3:19-4:1a. In fact, this transition is the main point of the text.

**Chapter 4: Summary**

The Philistines were a warring people from the west who attacked the Israelites. Eli’s two sons are killed in the battle. The Philistines also capture the Ark of the Covenant. When Eli hears of his son’s death and the capture of the ark he falls over, breaks his neck, and dies.

**Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12**

What happens to the god of the Philistines in the presence of the ark? What happens to idolatrous people in the presence of the ark?

(V4) “they rose early on the next morning” – (similar language to the Easter story) – Neither the Philistines nor the women at the tomb found what they were expecting. The power of God far surpasses the other powers we might assume to rule the earth.

**Chapter 6: Summary**

After 7 months the Philistines have had enough of the Ark of the Lord. They agree to send it back to the Israelites but first fashion some offerings to go with it (so that they will not continue to receive punishment). The offerings were gold statues in the shape of tumors and mice. In this the Philistines are paying tribute to and recognizing the source of their affliction. The Israelites at Beth-shemesh receive the Ark but some of the inhabitants refused to rejoice in the presence of the Ark so God killed 70 of them. The inhabitants of Beth-shemesh then sent the Ark to Kiriath-jearim where it was cared for properly.

**Read 1 Samuel 7:2-17**

In the well known hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” we sing:

Here I raise my Ebenezer;

Hither by thy help I’m come; **What is an Ebenezer?**

And I hope, by thy good pleasure, **How is God’s help/salvation made known here?**

Safely to arrive at home.

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Samuel has been variously depicted as a priest (2:18-19), as a prophet (3:20), and as a judge (7:2-4). But Samuel's judgeship is unique. Previous judges had functioned, essentially, as military deliverers. Samuel's judgeship differs in that he more fully integrates the three aspects of his vocation as prophet, priest, and judge.

**Chapter 8: Summary**

When Samuel became old he appointed his sons as judges over Israel but they took bribes and perverted justice. Therefor the people demanded a king to rule over them “like other nations”. Samuel spoke with God then returned with a warning that a King would take their sons to be in a military and daughters to serve in the king’s house. He also warned of taxes and a king’s ability to take what he wanted. But the people still demanded a king. God then told Samuel to listen to them and set a king over them.

**Read 1 Samuel 9:1 – 10:27**

What is unexpected in this story?

Who chooses the king? Why might this be important?

When what impression do we get of Saul on the day he is chosen by the people to be king?

The final question is “Who can save?”

**1 Samuel 10:27b – 11:15: Summary**

The king of the Ammonites had gouged many people’s right eye but 7,000 escaped and entered the northern town of Jabesh-gilead. The Ammonite King besieged Jabesh-gilead and threatened to cut out their right eyes as a sign of disgrace to Israel. When Saul heard about this he rallied the people from many towns (370,000 in total) and marched his army from the south (about 40 miles) to join in the fight. Together, they defeated the Ammonites, reaffirmed the kingship of Saul, GOD’s SALVATION, and they all rejoiced greatly.

**1 Samuel 12:1-25: Summary**

Samuel delivers a speech that retells the great stories of Israel and how God has acted as their king repeatedly saving and leading them through history. Then Samuel tells them that since they were wicked and asked for a king God has granted them a king but if they do not honor God or their king does not honor God they will be struck down. Samuel then gives them a sign by calling God to bring a Thunderstorm upon the ripe wheat harvest – which God does. The people cry out to Samuel (and God) begging that they not be punished for their sin. Samuel responds “Do not be afraid…” and continues to remind them that they are God’s chosen people and he will not cast them off… (unless the persist in their wickedness).