

The Birth of Samuel

1 Samuel 1

1 Samuel 2:1-11, 18-21

by Don Falkos

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Hannah had no children. Once during worship at the Tabernacle she made a vow, "O Lord Almighty, if you will give me a son, I will give him back to you. He will be yours his entire life, and as a sign of his dedication to you, his hair will never be cut."

Eli the priest was watching Hannah. She was praying silently, but her lips were moving. He misunderstood, "Why do you come here drunk?"

"Oh no, sir!" she said. "I haven't been drinking. Don't think poorly of me! I have been pouring my heart out to the Lord."

"Oh... uh... in that case, go in peace! And may the God of Israel grant your request."

In due time, Hannah gave birth to a son and named him Samuel. When he was still quite young, she took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh and left him there. She said to Eli, "The Lord gave me a son. Now I am giving him back to the Lord."

Hannah praised God, "I rejoice in the Lord's deliverance. The Lord is holy and understands everything. The Lord founded the world and directs its course. The Lord opposes the proud and the powerful, but helps the poor and needy. The Lord will grant strength to the coming king."

Even though Samuel was just a boy, he served the Lord by assisting Eli the priest. Each year Hannah made a robe for Samuel and brought it to him. Eli blessed her, "May the Lord give you other children to take the place of this one." The Lord gave Hannah three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.