

**Housekeeping Items**

- *Parking:* go past the front door, then take a right into this side parking lot.
- *Driveway:* come into the main entrance (the second left).
- *Fellowship:* teaching starts about 7:20, so please come for fellowship!
- *Class ends:* about 8:30, so you can retrieve kids.
- *Attendance:* please signing in with your name and email
- *Sessions:* we are unfortunately brief this Spring but will pick up in the Fall
- *Class reading:* *The Making Of A Man Of God*, by Alan Redpath.

**Verse-by-verse study; recordings**

- Our intention is to go through 1st Samuel and 2nd Samuel verse by verse
- We record every week, and recordings become a part of the church podcast, together with the weekend sermons.
- You can also listen to classes and get the notes at: **htchurch.com/samuel**.
- Media from past classes can be found at [htchurch.com/media](http://htchurch.com/media).

**The Samuels In History**

- The Books of Samuel originally made up just one book in the Hebrew Bible, although Christian Bibles separate them into two different books.
- In Hebrew, it was *Sefer Shmuel*, which means the Book of Samuel.

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### **Who wrote *Samuel*?**

Jewish tradition says some of it was written by Samuel himself, and some by the Prophets Gad and Nathan.

### **The Main Characters of the Samuels**

- First, the Prophet Samuel himself;
- Second, King Saul, who was the first King of Israel; and,
- King David, the man after God’s own heart.

### **When do these events take place?**

- Samuel was likely born around 1100 B.C.
- King Saul is crowned around 1050 B.C.
- King David conquered Jerusalem sometime between 1005 and 999 B.C.

### **Historical setting of First Samuel**

- A critical time in the life of the people of Israel. In the time of the Judges, there was no king yet, but *every man did what was right in his own eyes*.
- The people began to serve other gods, and they began to be oppressed by hostile foreign powers.
- There is a cycle of revival and ruin that we see in the Book of Judges. Famous leaders like Deborah, Gideon, and Samson were not enough to stem the moral decay of the people.

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### What was God up to?

- David served the purposes of God in his generation, but what *were* those purposes?
- God was working to raise up the *prophetic* ministry in Israel. The people of God needed Divine revelation.
- God was also working to raise up the *kingly* ministry. The people of God needed godly administration. God would use Saul and David to defend and secure the people against their enemies.
- God was working as well to raise up the *priestly* ministry. Samuel and David were used to establish this ministry, setting in order the worship of the Levites and the Tabernacle, and preparing the way for the Temple to be built, with its constant worship and intercession that would arise from Jerusalem.

### Where are the “bookends” of the Samuels?

- 1 Samuel begins the birth of the Prophet Samuel, and 2 Samuel ends with David purchasing the land for the Temple.
- These bookends show God’s purposes for the nation.

### Hannah's Grief (1 Sam. 1:1-7)

*1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD*

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of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. 4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. 6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

- *Elkanah* means *God has created him*, or *God has possessed him*.
- Elkanah is an Ephraimite, but he is of the Tribe of Levi. Samuel is the 20th generation in that line. You can see the family genealogy in 1 Chronicles 6.
- *Ramathaim Zophim* means the *double heights of the watchers*, and is usually shortened to *Ramah*.
  - Jeremiah said a voice was heard of weeping in Ramah. It was Rachel weeping for her children. (Jer. 31:15)
  - That prophecy would have a second fulfillment under King Herod.
  - This Ramah may also be the same place later rendered as Arimathea.
- Elkanah took two wives. The taking of two wives was not forbidden, but polygamy is always looked upon unfavorably in the Scriptures.
- Peninnah was the wife who was blessed with children. Her name means that she was a *jewel*, perhaps of coral or of pearl.

### **At The Tabernacle**

- The Tabernacle of the Lord was set up at Shiloh. This was a semi-permanent structure that preceded the Temple.

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- We meet the priests who ministered to the Lord at Shiloh.
- Apparently Elkanah was at least a somewhat faithful worshiper of the Lord, and he went up to worship the Lord every year.
- Elkanah was worshiping the Lord of Hosts, YHWH-Sabaoth. This could indicate that Elkanah was praying regularly for God’s help against the Philistines.
- Elkanah gave to Hannah extra portions or good portions as a way to demonstrate his love to her. He gave her gifts to show how much she loved her.
- Barrenness was an especially trial difficult in those days because of the stigma attached to it.
- Peninnah might have carried the name of a jewel, but she was no jewel in her character, and she was provoking Hannah. Every year she was provoking Hannah for being without children. While others were celebrating and feasting, Hannah was weeping and fasting.
- The writer tells us that it was actually the Lord who had closed her womb. All Israel had come to be a woman of promise but truly barren.
- God allowed this trial, so He could do a great work of grace within her life. Her name, Hannah, or actually *Channah*, means *grace*, or that she was *favored*.
- This is a picture of praying for revival to come to the people of God. She would have to fast and pray to see revival come into Israel. Israel might have been created by God, but they had the pearl of religion only. There could be no great work of grace until Hannah in her barrenness cried out to the Lord to birth something new, something that would bring life back into the nation.

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