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LESSON ONE: BIRTH OF SAMUEL

Reading: 1 Samuel 1-3

Highlights:

Chapter 1

Family of Elkanah, Hannah’s burden of childlessness, Hannah’s Prayer and Vow, Birth of Samuel, Samuel given to the Lord

Chapter 2

Hannah’s prayer, Corruption of Eli’s Sons, Hannah’s continued blessings, Judgment announced on the house of Eli

Chapter 3

God’s first message to Samuel, Samuel established as the nation’s spiritual leader.

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Questions:

1. Describe the burden which Hannah bore.
2. What vow does she make to God?
3. What themes do you see in Hannah’s prayer when she gave Samuel to Eli to serve the Lord? (1 Samuel 2:1-10). What does the prayer reveal about her feelings when the time came to give up her son?
4. How else did Hannah’s life change (1 Samuel 2:20-22). What does this turn around in the conditions of Hannah’s life teach us?
5. How was the leadership of Samuel a contrast to the sons of Eli?

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Worth Considering:

1 Samuel 1:23 And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

1 Samuel 2:30 "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

1 Samuel 2:35 'Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

1 Samuel 3:18 Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."