

# The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 3

## The Birth of Samuel

We look today at the birth of one of the most important Old Testament figures, Samuel.

### Quick Review

- Israel is still in the period of the Judges. The latter events of Judges and even Ruth are taking place at the time of Samuel's birth.
- The Judges period has largely been a failure, spiritually, morally, and nationally.

### 1. The Birth of Samuel - I Samuel 1:1-20

- Elkanah ("God has purchased" is a Levite, a Kohathite to be exact. His family had long settled in Ephraim (Joshua 21:5)
- He practiced bigamy, though against God's plan, and married Hannah ("Gracious") and Peninnah ("Pearl")
- We also meet Eli ("my God"), the high priest, and his sons Hophni ("pugilist") and Phineas ("mouth of brass"). I swear I'm not making that up.
- Much value and status was placed on a wife that could produce many children, especially boys.
- vs. 11 - note that Hannah is committing her child to the Nazarite vow, like Samson.
- Samuel means "the name of God" or "His name is God"

### 2. Samuel's Consecration - I Samuel 1:21-28

- vs. 21 - Elkanah had made a vow to God, probably connected to the birth of Samuel, and these vows were paid at the great feast days.
- The "weaning" age is debated. Could be three (from nursing) up to twelve (entering adulthood)
- ephah = about 5 dry gallons

### 3. Hannah's Song/Prayer- I Samuel 2:1-10

- This beautiful prayer of thanksgiving flows from a full heart, contrasted with the silent prayer she offered before from a broken heart
- vs. 10 - this is the first time the word "Messiah" is used (translated as "anointed")



