

# I Samuel 1-3

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Historical Books II  
Lecture #3

# Reminder

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The early chapters of I Samuel are in the times of the Judges.



# Characteristics of the Judges Era

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- Trouble in the land.
- Canaanite peoples are still in the land.
- These peoples are used to try Israel's faith – Judges 2:20-3:4
- God would raise up Judges to lead the Israel.

# I Samuel

## Chapter 1

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The Birth of Samuel

# Concerning Names

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- We will highlight the meaning of names when we come to them.
- Names have much more meaning in Bible times.
- For fun:
  - Matthew – “gift from God”
  - Barton – “of barley”
  - Gage – “strong protector”
  - So I am: “God’s gift of a strong protector of barley.”



# Elkanah

- “acquired of God”
- A Levite (next slide)
- Lived at Ramah (Ramathaim-Zophim)
- Two wives
  - Hannah – “grace”
  - Pearl – “pearl”

# Divisions of Levites – Numbers 3

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- Aaronites - Priests
  - Kohanim – High Priests
- Kohathites - Levites
- Gershonites - Levites
- Merarites – Levites
- Priests performed sacrifices
- Levites assisted.
- Both have roles of leading the people spiritually and teaching the Law.

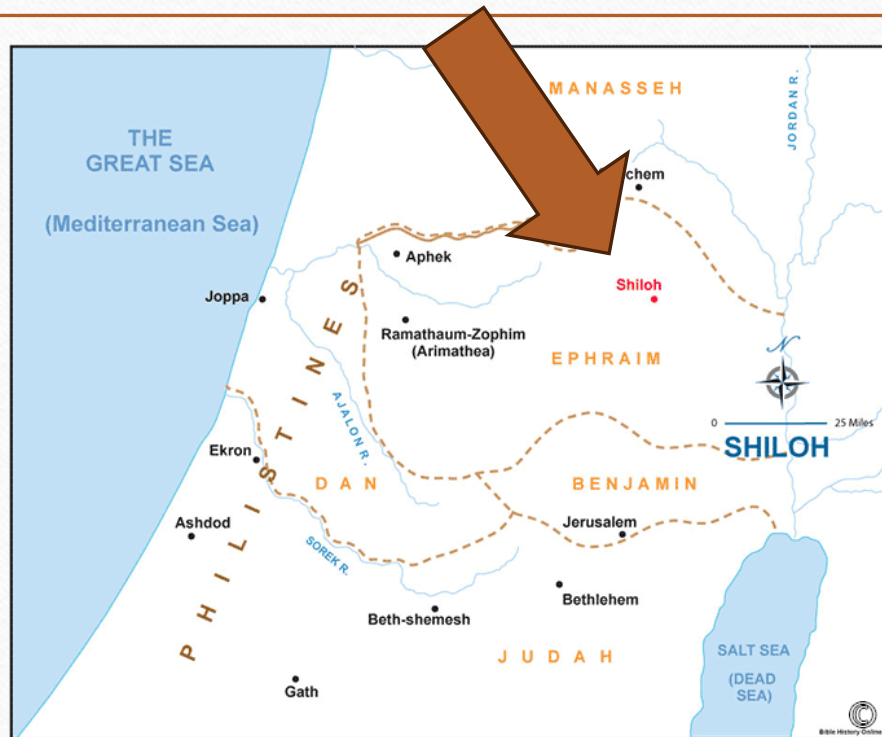
# Eli

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- Eli – High Priest and Judge – “Jehovah is high”
  - Hophni – “pugilist”
  - Phinehas – “brazen-mouthed”
- Eli is a descendent of Ithamar, not of the proper line of Eleazar – I Kings 2:35, Numbers 3:4, I Chronicles 6:8.
- It is a mystery as to when and how Eli and his family came into power.
  - Some theorize that he usurped the role himself.



# Shiloh



- Since Joshua 18 this has been the home of the Tabernacle and a key gathering place for Israel.

# Hannah's Vow

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- Probably at Passover.
- Promises to give her son to God as a Nazarite – “there shall no razor come upon his head” – vs. 11
- Prays silently – proof God hears silent prayer!
- Eli thinks she is drunk. Was he used to seeing drunk women at the Tabernacle???

# Belial

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- Means “worthless” or “evil”
- Used as a name for Satan – II Corinthians 6:15
- In 17 of 27 appearances, it has “man/son/daughter of”
- Likely refers to an idolator
  - Jews refer to idols or pagan gods as “nothing”.
- Denotes evil behavior.

# Samuel

- “heard of God”
- He is born of prayer and lives in prayer.
- Stays with Hannah three years(?) before being taken to the Tabernacle.



# I Samuel

## Chapter 2

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Contrasting Hannah and Eli

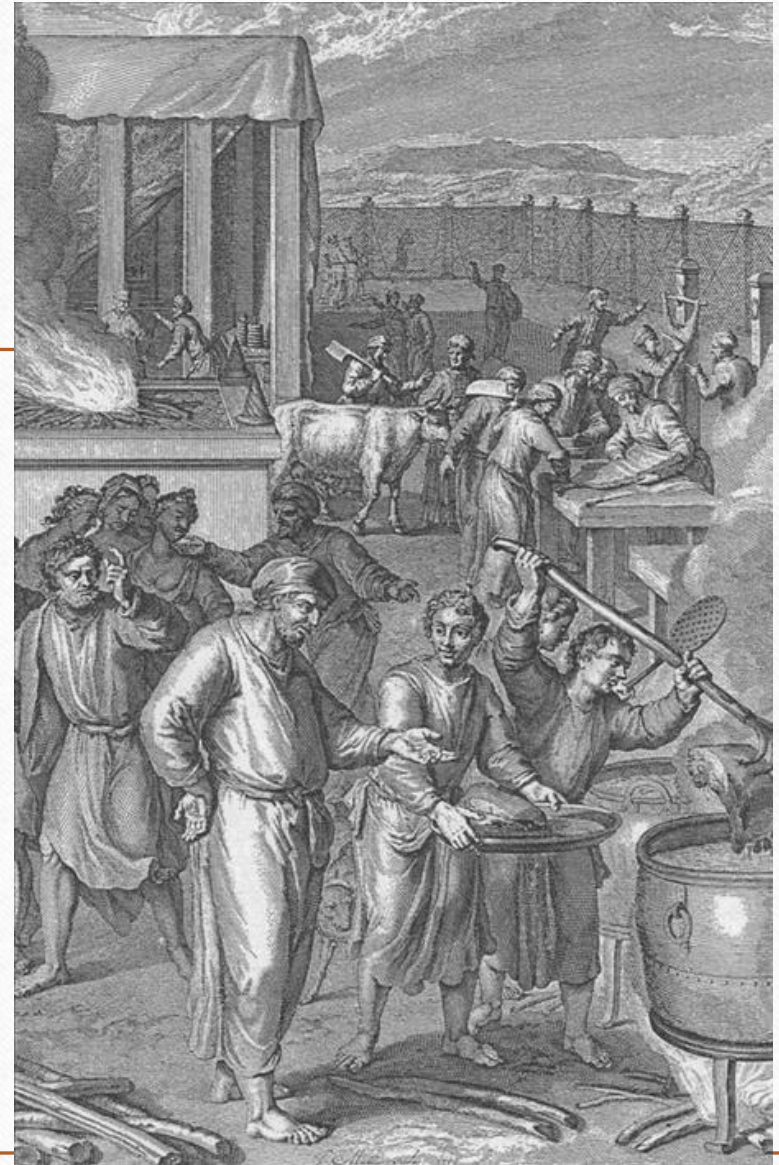
# Hannah's Prayer

- It is poetry – she has put a lot of thought into this.
- Vs. 1 – horn – represents strength
- Vs. 10 – First mention of the Messiah (“anointed one”)



# Hophni and Phinehas

- Sons of Belial – idolators, wicked
- Knew not the LORD – unsaved
- Took beyond their portion of the sacrifices
  - Took from the offeror's portion
  - Took from the Lord's portion



# Samuel's Coat

- “This pointed mention of the ephod and the robe as worn by the youthful Samuel, seems to point to an extraordinary and irregular priesthood to which he was called by God in an age when the provisions of the Levitical law were not yet in full operation, and in which there was no impropriety in the eyes of his contemporaries, seeing that nonconformity to the whole Law was the rule rather than the exception throughout the days of the Judges.”





# Rejection of Eli's House

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- How is Eli just finding out about this???
- Hophni and Phinehas continue in their ways after Eli's rebuke.
- The gross sin committed by those held to such a high standard demanded great judgment from God.

# Double Fulfillment of vs. 35

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- “And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.”
- Fulfilled in:
  - Zadok – I Kings 2:35
  - Christ

# I Samuel

## Chapter 3

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The Call of Samuel

# Spiritual State of Israel

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- Vs. 1 - “And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.”
- There were no prophecies between Deborah (Judges 4) and Hannah and the nameless prophet (I Samuel 2).
  - Around 100 years!!!



# Did the Candlestick go out?

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- I have often heard this passage interpreted to mean that the Golden Candlestick in the Tabernacle went out because it was neglected.
- Closer examination shows that “ere the lamp of God went out” means the early hours of the morning.

# The Call of Samuel

- The first time God spoke to Samuel
- A first prophecy, like Jeremiah 1
- Also, a theophany - God “came, and stood”





# “From Dan to Beersheba”

- Means the whole land of Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the South.
- Like our “sea to shining sea”.