

**Lesson 21 (Study Notes):** [God Will Honor Those Who Honor Him](#)

Class Member Reading: [1 Samuel 2, 3, 8](#)

**Hannah's Prayer**

<sup>2</sup> Hannah prayed and said,  
'My heart exults in the LORD;  
my strength is exalted in my God.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in my victory.

<sup>2</sup> 'There is no Holy One like the LORD,  
no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

<sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble gird on strength.

<sup>5</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low, he also exalts.

<sup>8</sup> He raises up the poor from the dust;

he lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honour.  
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,  
and on them he has set the world.

<sup>9</sup> 'He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;  
for not by might does one prevail.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;  
the Most High will thunder in heaven.  
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king,  
and exalt the power of his anointed.'

### **Eli's Wicked Sons**

<sup>11</sup> Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, while the boy remained to minister to the LORD, in the presence of the priest Eli.

<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD<sup>13</sup> or for the duties of the priests to the people. When anyone offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, <sup>14</sup>and he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or cauldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. <sup>15</sup>Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the one who was sacrificing, 'Give meat for the priest to roast; for he will not accept boiled meat from you, but only raw.'<sup>16</sup> And if the man said to him, 'Let them burn the fat first, and then take whatever you wish', he would say, 'No, you must give it now; if not, I will take it by force.'<sup>17</sup> Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD; for they treated the offerings of the LORD with contempt.

## **The Child Samuel at Shiloh**

18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.

21 And the LORD took note of Hannah; she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

## **Prophecy against Eli's Household**

22 Now Eli was very old. He heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>23</sup>He said to them, 'Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. <sup>24</sup>No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. <sup>25</sup>If one person sins against another, someone can intercede for the sinner with the LORD; but if someone sins against the LORD, who can make intercession?' But they would not listen to the voice of their father; for it was the will of the LORD to kill them.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

27 A man of God came to Eli and said to him, 'Thus the LORD has said, "I revealed myself to the family of your ancestor in Egypt when they were slaves to the house of Pharaoh. <sup>28</sup>I chose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to offer incense, to wear an ephod before me; and I gave to the family of your ancestor all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel. <sup>29</sup>Why then look with greedy eye at my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded, and honour your sons more than me

by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?" <sup>30</sup>Therefore the LORD the God of Israel declares: "I promised that your family and the family of your ancestor should go in and out before me for ever"; but now the LORD declares: "Far be it from me; for those who honour me I will honour, and those who despise me shall be treated with contempt. <sup>31</sup>See, a time is coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your ancestor's family, so that no one in your family will live to old age. <sup>32</sup>Then in distress you will look with greedy eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed upon Israel; and no one in your family shall ever live to old age. <sup>33</sup>The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep out his eyes and grieve his heart; all the members of your household shall die by the sword. <sup>34</sup>The fate of your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you—both of them shall die on the same day. <sup>35</sup>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 go in and out before my anointed one for ever. <sup>36</sup>Everyone who is left in your family shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread, and shall say, Please put me in one of the priest's places, that I may eat a morsel of bread." ' "

### **Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity**

**3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

**2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for

you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' <sup>17</sup>Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

## Israel Demands a King

**8** When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel.<sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba.<sup>3</sup> Yet his sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.

**4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,<sup>5</sup> and said to him, 'You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.'<sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to govern us.' Samuel prayed to the LORD,<sup>7</sup> and the LORD said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.'<sup>8</sup> Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you.<sup>9</sup> Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.'

**10** So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king.<sup>11</sup> He said, 'These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;<sup>12</sup> and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.<sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.<sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers.<sup>15</sup> He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.<sup>16</sup> He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work.<sup>17</sup> He will take one-tenth of your

flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup>And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.'

### **Israel's Request for a King Granted**

19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, 'No! but we are determined to have a king over us, <sup>20</sup>so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.' <sup>21</sup>When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. <sup>22</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, 'Listen to their voice and set a king over them.' Samuel then said to the people of Israel, 'Each of you return home.'

Additional Reading: