

Retelling of the Birth of Samuel

(1 Samuel 1 and 2)

There was a man named Elkanah who had two wives. One wife had many sons and daughters. But Hannah had no children. Every year, Elkanah traveled with his family to Shiloh where they worshiped the Lord. When it was time to make an offering to the Lord, he gave a portion to each member of his family. But he gave Hannah a double portion because he loved her.

Hannah was very sad about not having any children. Elkanah's other wife made Hannah miserable. When they went to worship the Lord, she provoked Hannah so that she wept and did not eat.

Her husband tried to comfort her. He said, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

After they finished eating and drinking, Hannah went to the tabernacle. She prayed to the Lord as she wept. Then Hannah made a vow to the Lord and said, "O Lord, if You will give your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life and no razor shall come upon his head."

Eli the priest saw Hannah praying. He said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

Hannah said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." Hannah went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. Elkanah and Hannah worshiped the Lord then next morning and then went home.

The Lord remembered Hannah and gave her a son. She called him Samuel, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord."

The next time Elkanah went to worship the Lord at Shiloh, Hannah did not go with him. She said, "I will not go up until the child is old enough to appear before the Lord and remain there forever."

Hannah nursed her son until she had weaned him. Then Elkanah and Hannah took the child to Eli at the house of the Lord.

Hannah said, "For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he shall be lent to the Lord."

After they worshiped the Lord, Elkanah and Hannah went home. But Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest.

Every year his mother made Samuel a little robe and gave it to him when she came to the tabernacle with her husband.

The Lord visited Hannah, so that she had three more sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the Lord. The child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men.