### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 1

1There was a man from RamAh of Zophim in the Hills of Ephraim whose name was ElKanah. He was the son of JerHam, grandson of EliHu, great-grandson of ToHu, and the great-great grandson of Zuph, all of whom were from the hills of Ephraim.  
  
2He had two women, the first was named HanNah and the second was PeninNah. Now, PeninNah had [given birth to] children, but HanNah had no children.  
  
3Well, each day [ElKanah] would leave his city and go up to ShiLoh to bow and offer sacrifices to Jehovah of armies, along with Eli and two of his sons, HophNi and PhineAs, who were Priests of Jehovah.  
  
  
4And one day, when ElKanah was there offering sacrifices, he gave his woman PeninNah and her sons and daughters their inheritances; 5however, he only gave HanNah a single portion, because she didn’t have any children.  
  
Yet, ElKanah loved HanNah more than he loved PeninNah, despite the fact that Jehovah had kept her womb locked 6(for He hadn’t given her a child to love and to remove her sorrow). As a result, she became depressed and she believed that Jehovah wouldn’t allow her to have a baby.  
  
7Well, each year she would go up to the House of Jehovah to cry and fast there.  
  
8Then [one day], her husband ElKanah asked her:  
  
 ‘HanNah, why are you always crying?  
  
 ‘Why won’t you eat and why is your heart [so sad]?  
  
 ‘For I [love you more] than ten children!’  
  
  
9Well, HanNah then went to ShiLoh and stood before Eli, who was the High Priest then. She’d gone without eating or drinking for some time; 10and because her soul was in such great pain, she [just stood there] praying and crying before Jehovah.  
  
11Then she made a vow, saying:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah of Armies,  
  
 ‘If You’ll just look at me, You’ll see how Your slave woman has been disgraced!  
  
 ‘Please remember me and don’t forget that I’m your servant… Remember me and don’t forget me!  
  
 ‘If You’ll give me a son, I’ll stand him before You and dedicate him to You throughout his entire life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.’  
  
12Well, as she was praying there before Jehovah, the Priest Eli was watching her mouth, 13and he recognized that she was speaking from her heart. He could see that her lips were moving, but he couldn’t hear her saying anything, so he figured that she was probably drunk.  
  
14So he said to her:  
  
 ‘How long have you been drinking?  
  
 ‘Why don’t you get rid of your wine?’  
  
15But HanNah said:  
  
 ‘No, my lord! I’m just a woman who has seen hard times. I haven’t had any wine or liquor to drink, and I’m not drunk!  
  
 ‘Rather, I’m pouring out my soul before Jehovah! 16Please don’t consider your servant a delinquent daughter; for my worries and depression have grown into a mountain.’  
  
17And Eli told her:  
  
 ‘Then, go in peace, for the God of IsraEl will give you all that you’ve asked from Him!’  
  
18And she said:  
  
 ‘Your maidservant has found favor in your eyes.’  
  
So then, she went back to her husband and she started eating and drinking again, and her face wasn’t sad anymore.  
  
19Then they both got up early the next morning and bowed before Jehovah, and they went back home.  
  
  
And after ElKanah got back home to RamAh, he [had sex] with his woman HanNah, and Jehovah remembered her and she got pregnant.  
  
20Well, when the time came, HanNah gave birth to a son whom she named SamuEl [meaning, God Heard], for she said:  
  
 ‘He’s what I asked of the Almighty God.’  
  
21And after that, whenever ElKanah left home to go up and offer the required sacrifices at ShiLoh and pay his vows, 22HanNah didn’t go with him, for she said:  
  
 ‘I’ll wait until the boy is weaned to stand him before Jehovah.  
  
 ‘Then he can spend the rest of the age there.’  
  
23And ElKanah told her:  
  
 ‘Do whatever you see is best until he’s weaned, but may Jehovah bring about what you vowed.’  
  
So the woman nursed her son until the time he was weaned, 24then they took him up to ShiLoh along with:  
  
 • A 3-year-old calf,  
 • A quart of fine flour, and  
 • A skin flask of wine.  
  
There they entered Jehovah’s House in ShiLoh, bringing the boy inside with them, 25and then they stood him before Jehovah.  
  
Thereafter, they slaughtered the calf, and HanNah brought the child to Eli 26and said:  
  
 ‘My Lord, I swear that as you’re living... I’m the woman who stood before you while praying to Jehovah; 27I prayed for this boy, and Jehovah granted my request to Him!  
  
 ‘So, I now loan him to the Lord all the days of his life that he’ll live, to be used by the Lord!’