### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 2

1Then HanNah prayed and sang [this song]:  
  
 ‘My [faith] is now firm, O my God,  
 And my heart [belongs to Jehovah].  
 For, my horn has been raised by my God,  
 And against my enemies, my mouth’s opened wide.  
  
 ‘I thank You for my salvation;  
 For, this salvation has given me joy.  
 2There are none as holy as Jah,  
 Or any as righteous as God…  
 No, none are more holy than You.  
  
 3‘So, we should never be boasting,  
 Or allow haughty words to come from our mouths.  
 For, Jehovah is a God of [great] knowledge,  
 And a God who accomplishes all that He plans.  
  
 4‘He weakens the bows of the mighty,  
 And gives strength to those who are weak.  
 5Although those full of bread now have less,  
 And the hungry have been overlooked in our land;  
 The one who was sterile gave birth 7-fold,  
 As the one with many grew weaker.  
  
 6‘Both life and death come from Jehovah…  
 He takes them to the grave and leads them back out.  
 7It’s Jehovah that makes the poor and the rich…  
 He’s the One who humbles and raises.  
  
 8‘From the ground, He raises the needy,  
 And He lifts the poor from the dirt,  
 To seat them among the mightiest of men,  
 Where a throne of glory, they inherit.  
  
 9‘He gives what’s asked to those who make vows,  
 And He blesses the years of the righteous.  
 For, men can do nothing by their own strength…  
 10Jehovah alone makes their enemies weak…  
 Yes, He’s their [great] Holy Lord.  
  
 ‘May the smart not boast of their smartness,  
 And may the mighty not boast of their strength.  
 May the rich not boast of their wealth,  
 But, let them all boast of this:  
  
 ‘Let those who boast come to know  
 That it all really comes from Jehovah;  
 So, may they observe His decisions,  
 And recognize His justice throughout the whole earth.  
  
 ‘For, Jehovah descends from the heavens,  
 And from the skies, He sends thunder.  
 He [searches] and judges the wicked,  
 And to the ends of the earth, seeks the righteous.  
  
 ‘He’s the One who gives kings all their power,  
 And raises the trumpets of His anointed.’  
  
11So thereafter, she left [her son] there before Jehovah, and she went back home to her house in RamAh. And from that day on, the boy served Jehovah before Eli the Priest.  
  
  
Now, Eli’s Sons were very wicked, 12because they didn’t [really believe in Jehovah]. 13As a result, these Priests felt that all the sacrifices the people brought belonged to them.  
  
And whenever there was some boiled meat in the kettle, they’d reach in with the 3-pronged hook and take [the whole thing]… 14They’d drop the meat hook down into the large kettle and grab whatever they could. So, rather than allowing [the people to eat their portion of the sacrifices], the Priests would take whatever they wanted.  
  
And that’s how they treated all the people of IsraEl that came to ShiLoh to offer sacrifices to Jehovah.  
  
15Also, when the servants of the Priests were burning the [sacrificial] fat on the Altar, one of them would say to the other who was doing the sacrificing:  
  
 ‘Give the roasted meat to the Priests, because we don’t want any of that boiled meat in the kettle.’  
  
16But if the one who was doing the sacrificing said:  
  
 ‘Allow me to burn the fat first, because that’s what’s required.’  
  
They would say:  
  
 ‘No! Give it to me or I’ll take it myself!’  
  
17And that’s how the young men were sinning before Jehovah in such a great way, for they viewed His sacrifices as worthless.  
  
  
18Well, SamuEl served there in the presence of Jehovah as a boy, wearing a sacred chest piece of linen. 19He wore a little doubled robe that his mother had made for him, which she carried to him when she returned with her husband to offer the sacrifices that were required back then.  
  
20Eli also praised ElKanah and his woman.  
  
For he said:  
  
 ‘The Lord has taken the offspring of this woman as a loan, because of the way that she has acted towards Jehovah.’  
  
Well thereafter, 21Jehovah again visited HanNah, so she got pregnant and gave birth to three more sons and two daughters! However, it was the responsibility of the boy SamuEl to stay and serve in the presence of Jehovah.  
  
  
22Now, Eli had gotten very old, and he knew about all the things that his sons were doing to the people of IsraEl; for they were even sleeping with the women who stood around the Tent of Proofs.  
  
23So he asked them:  
  
 ‘Why are you doing all these bad things that the people of Jehovah are talking about?  
  
 24‘No, my sons, no!  
  
 ‘The things that I’m hearing aren’t good! I don’t want to hear any more about this, for you’re here to serve the people of God!  
  
 25‘If you’re sinning against the people, they’ll go and pray to Jehovah about it… And if you’re the ones who are sinning against Jehovah, who will there be to pray for you?’  
  
But they wouldn’t listen to their father, because Jehovah really wanted to destroy them... 26Meanwhile, the boy SamuEl went on to become great, for he was in good standing before both God and men.  
  
  
27Well thereafter, a man of God went to Eli and told him:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah has said:  
  
 ‘I revealed Myself to the house of your fathers in the land of Egypt who were servants in the house of PharaOh, 28and I chose the house of your fathers from all the tribes of IsraEl to serve Me as Priests who will approach My Altar, burn incense, and wear My sacred chest piece.  
  
 ‘I also gave the house of your father all the sacrifices that were burned on the fire as their food.  
  
 29So, why have you looked at My incense and My sacrifices in disgust? And why have you treated your sons better than Me by allowing them to bless themselves with the first fruitage of all the sacrifices that IsraEl brings before Me?  
  
 30‘Because you’ve allowed this,’ says Jehovah, the God of IsraEl... ‘your house and the house of your father will fall before Me throughout the ages!  
  
 And from now on, only those who are glorifying Me will be glorified, while those who are treating Me with contempt will be disgraced!  
  
 31‘Look! The days are coming when I’ll destroy your offspring… The sons of the house of your father. 32And after that, you’ll see how well things will be done in IsraEl!  
  
 But, never again will there be a man who grows old in your house. 33For I’ll destroy every man among you who serves at My Altar… I’ll make their eyes fail and cause their lives to flow out of them, then men will cut your family down with swords!  
  
 34‘This is the sign that I’ll give to your two sons, HophNi and PhineAs in the day that they’re both going to die:  
  
 35I’ll appoint for Myself a [High] Priest who’s trustworthy, and I’ll do for him whatever things are in My heart and soul... Then I’ll build his house into one that I can trust, and he will be My anointed for the rest of his life.  
  
 36‘So after that, anyone who’s left in your house will have to come and bow before him bearing a silver coin and a loaf of bread and say: ‘Allow me to be one of your Priests, so I may eat some of the food.’