

God answers Hannah's prayer.

1 Samuel 1:1—2:11



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Hannah's husband had another wife named Peninnah. Peninnah had sons and daughters, but Hannah didn't have any children. Peninnah made fun of Hannah because she didn't have children. Hannah felt sad.

When Hannah's family went to worship God at the Tabernacle, Hannah cried and cried. She prayed, "Please God, give me a son."

Eli, the priest, saw Hannah praying and thought she was drunk. He told Hannah to stop getting drunk. Hannah said, "I am not drunk. I am very sad and am asking God to help me." Eli told her to go in peace. Eli asked God to give her what she asked for.

God answered Hannah's prayer. Hannah named her baby boy Samuel. When he was old enough, Hannah took Samuel to the Tabernacle so that he could serve God.

God speaks
to Samuel.
1 Samuel 3:1-21



God speaks to Samuel.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Eli, the priest, was getting old. Samuel helped Eli take care of the Tabernacle. Samuel slept on a mat on the floor of the Tabernacle. One night Samuel heard a voice calling his name. Samuel jumped up and ran to where Eli was sleeping. "Here I am. You called me."

Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to sleep." Samuel went back to his mat on the floor. Soon, Samuel heard the voice again. Samuel quickly ran to Eli again, but Eli hadn't called him. Samuel went back to his mat again. But he heard the voice again! Samuel thought it had to be Eli calling! There was no one else who would call him in the middle of the night. Samuel ran to Eli. Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. God must have something important to tell Samuel.

Eli told Samuel to go back and lie down. Eli said, "If He calls you, say 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" Samuel did what Eli said. God told Samuel what He was going to do. Samuel listened to God.

Samuel chooses a king.

1 Samuel 8:1—10:24



Samuel chooses a king.

1 Samuel 8:1—10:24

Samuel grew up to be the leader of Israel. He was called a judge. Now Samuel was getting old. Some people talked to Samuel. They said, "Give us a king like all the other countries around us. We want to be like them."

Samuel was upset because he knew God was the real King of Israel! So he prayed to God. God said, "Samuel, warn them. Tell them that a king will make them his servants and will take their land and animals."

Samuel told the people all the things God had said. The people didn't care! They said, "We want a king anyway!"

About that time, a young man named Saul was out looking for his father's lost donkeys. As Saul walked into town, Samuel saw Saul. God said, "Samuel, here's the man I want to be king."

Samuel said to Saul, "I'd like you to come and eat with me. And don't worry, your donkeys have been found." The next morning, Samuel took a small bottle of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head saying, "The Lord has chosen you to be the leader of His people." And from that time, God helped Saul become ready to be king.