

An Introduction to 1 Samuel:
1 Samuel 1:9-18

- Introduction:
 - *The Old Testament is divided into 4 categories:*
 - *The Law: Genesis–Deuteronomy* → *The Historical Books: Joshua–Esther*
 - *The Wisdom Literature: Job–Song of Songs* → *The Prophets: Isaiah–Malachi*
 - When we approach a Historical Book like 1 Samuel we want to be looking for certain things:
 - For instance, we are reading a Narrative: A story that connects and explains a carefully selected set of true events, experiences, or the like, intended to support a particular viewpoint or thesis.
 - This Narrative is going to show us the Depravity of Man, the successes and failures of true believers, and how God is active with Nations and individuals (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - 1 Samuel will walk us through the transition from Israel being a *Theocracy* (A Nation led by God) to a *Monarchy* (A Nation led by human royalty). (cf. 1 Samuel 8:6-7)
 - Samuel was the last of Israel’s Judges (1 Samuel 7:15-17), the first of Israel’s Prophets (Acts 3:24), and the one who anointed Israel’s first King (1 Samuel 10:1).
 - The Author of 1 Samuel historically is Samuel (1 Samuel 10:25) and Nathan and Gad (1 Chronicles 29:29). The span of 1st and 2nd Samuel covers about 100 years of history.
- Elkanah:
 - He was from the tribe of Levi (1 Chronicles 6:27-28) and he was the father of Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20). Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Penninah (1 Samuel 1:2). Elkanah did not seem to manage his household well (1 Samuel 1:4-7).
 - He was a man of worship, he obeyed God (1 Samuel 1:3-4; Exodus 23:14-16; Deuteronomy 12:15-19; Leviticus 7:11-18). We also see that he had made a vow to God and he was faithful to honor it (1 Samuel 1:21; Deuteronomy 12:6).
 - Elkanah created conflict in his familial life by having two wives (Genesis 2:22-25; Matthew 19:4-6), which was against God’s design. Because of the command to be “fruitful and multiply” that was last spoken to Jacob (Genesis 35:11 – *once Jacob’s 12 sons are born, no one else in the Bible will ever be told to be fruitful and multiply*), the Jews believed that barrenness was a sign of being cursed by God. The reality is that in almost all of the mentionings of barrenness in the Bible, it leads to a man being greatly used by God such as Sarah (Isaac), Rebecca (Jacob and Esau), Rachel (Joseph), Hannah (Samuel), Samson’s mother (Samson), and Elizabeth (John the Baptist). We see that God has a great purpose in wombs that are closed and wombs that are opened (1 Samuel 1:5 & 19-20).
 - His actions were unable to heal the pain of barrenness. Regardless of the love that Elkanah had for Hannah, he was unable to do what only God can do, bring strength in weakness (1 Corinthians 12:9-10), bring joy in bitterness (2 Corinthians 6:9-10), and bring peace in difficulty (Phillipians 4:9).
 - Elkanah also honored the vow that Hannah had made to the LORD (1 Samuel 1:11,21-28; Numbers 30:10-15), relinquishing their first born son to the LORD (Numbers 18:15-16; Exodus 13:13-16; 1 Samuel 1:28).
- *Application points:*
 - God designed marriage and it glorifies Him to obey Him in accordance with His Word.
 - God has called us to a lifestyle of worship. We should be thankful, humble people.
 - *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). “And whatever you do, in word and deed; do everything in the name of the*

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Worship: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken (Indelible Grace Music)

Be Thou My Vision (Norton Hall Band)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17). “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1).

- *“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:5-7)*
- Men have been called to manage their households well.
 - *“He must manage his own household well, with all dignity (respect, humility, and competence) keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?” (1 Timothy 3:4-5)*
- We must strive to support our spouses in their commitments to Christ.
 - *“So that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” (Ephesians 5:27-28)*