

THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 1

¹ There was a man of Ramathaim Zophim, of Mount Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah, a son of Jeroham, the son of Elias, the son of Tohu, in Nasib Ephraim. ² And he had two wives; the name of the one was Anna, and the name of the second *was* Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Anna had no child. ³ And the man went up from year to year from his city, from Ramathaim, to worship and sacrifice to the Lord God of Sabaoth at Shiloh. And *there were* Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phineas, the priests of the Lord. ⁴ And the day came, and Elkanah sacrificed, and gave portions to his wife Peninnah and her children. ⁵ And to Anna he gave a prime portion, because she had no child, only Elkanah loved Anna more than the other; but the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶ For the Lord gave her no child in her affliction, and according to the despondency of her affliction; and she was dispirited on this account, that the Lord had shut up her womb so as not to give her a child. ⁷ So she did year by year, in going up to the house of the Lord; and she was dispirited, and wept, and did not eat.

⁸ And Elkanah her husband called to her, "Anna." And she said to him, "Here am I, my lord." And he said to her, "Why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why does your heart grieve you? Am I not better to you than ten children?" ⁹ And Anna rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and stood before the Lord. And Eli the priest was on a seat by the threshold of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰ And she was very much grieved in *her* spirit, and prayed to the Lord, and wept abundantly. ¹¹ And she vowed a vow to the Lord, saying, "O Lord God of Sabaoth, if You will indeed look upon the humiliation of Your maidservant and remember me, and give to Your maidservant a male child, then will I indeed dedicate him to You till the day of his death; and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and no razor shall come upon his head."

¹² And it came to pass, while she was praying a long *time* before the Lord, that Eli the priest watched her mouth. ¹³ And she was speaking in her heart, and her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. And Eli accounted her a drunken woman. ¹⁴ And the servant of Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you, and go out from the presence of the Lord." ¹⁵ And Anna answered and said, "No my lord, *I live* in a hard day, and I have not drunk wine or strong drink, and I pour out my soul before the Lord. ¹⁶ Count not your maidservant for a wicked woman, for by reason of the abundance of my complaint I have continued *my prayer* until now." ¹⁷ And Eli answered and said to her, "Go in peace, *and may* the God of Israel give you all your petition, which you have asked of Him." ¹⁸ And she said, "Your maidservant has found favor in your eyes." And the woman went her way, and entered into her lodging, and ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

¹⁹ And they rose early in the morning, and worshipped the Lord, and they went their way. And Elkanah went into his house at Ramathaim, and had relations with his wife Anna; and the Lord remembered her, and she conceived.

²⁰ And it came to pass when the time had come, that she brought forth a son, and called his name Samuel, and said, "Because I asked him of the Lord God of Sabaoth." ²¹ And the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer in Shiloh the yearly sacrifice, and his vows, and all the tithes of his land. ²² But Anna did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, "*I will not go up* until the child goes up, when I have weaned him, and he shall be presented before the Lord, and he shall abide there continually." ²³ And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do that which is good in your eyes, abide still until you have weaned him; and may the Lord establish that which comes out of your mouth." And the woman waited, and suckled her son until she had weaned him.

²⁴ And she went up with him to Shiloh with a calf of three years old, and loaves, and an ephah of fine flour, and a skin of wine. And she entered into the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child with them. ²⁵ And they brought him before the Lord; and his father slaughtered his offering which he offered from year to year to the Lord; and he brought the child near, and slaughtered the calf; and Anna the mother of the child brought him to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "I pray, my lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman that stood in your presence with you while praying to the Lord. ²⁷ For I have prayed for this child; and the Lord has given me my request that I asked of Him. ²⁸ And I lend him to the Lord all his days that he lives, a loan to the Lord."