

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 2

¹ And she said, "My heart is established in the Lord, my horn is exalted in my God; my mouth is enlarged over my enemies, I have rejoiced in Your salvation. ² For there is none holy like the Lord, and there is none righteous as our God; there is none holy besides You. ³ Boast not, and utter not high things; let not high sounding words come out of your mouth, for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and God prepares His own designs. ⁴ The bow of the mighty has grown feeble, and the weak have girded themselves with strength. ⁵ They that were full of bread have been brought low; and the hungry have forsaken the land; for the barren has born seven, and she that abounded in children has grown feeble. ⁶ The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave, and brings up. ⁷ The Lord makes poor, and makes rich; He brings low, and lifts up. ⁸ He lifts up the poor from the earth, and raises the needy from the dunghill; to seat him with the princes of the people, and causing them to inherit the throne of glory; ⁹ granting his petition to him that prays; and He blesses the years of the righteous, for by strength cannot man prevail. ¹⁰ The Lord will weaken His adversary; the Lord is holy. Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast in his strength, and let not the rich man boast in his wealth; but let him that boasts boast in this: to understand and know the Lord, and to execute judgment and justice in the midst of the earth. The Lord has gone up to the heavens, and has thundered: He will judge the extremities of the earth, and He gives strength to our kings, and will exalt the horn of His Christ." ¹¹ And she left him there before the Lord and departed to Ramathaim. And the child ministered in the presence of the Lord before Eli the priest.

¹² And the sons of Eli the priest *were* evil sons, not knowing the Lord. ¹³ And the priest's claim from everyone of the people that sacrificed was this: the servant of the priest came when the flesh was in seething, and a flesh-hook of three teeth was in his hand. ¹⁴ And he struck it into the great caldron, or into the bronze vessel, or into the pot, and whatever came up with the flesh-hook, the priest took for himself. So they did to all Israel that came to sacrifice to the Lord in Shiloh. ¹⁵ And before the fat was burnt for a sweet savor, the servant of the priest would come, and say to the man that sacrificed, "Give some flesh to roast for the priest, and I will by no means take from you boiled flesh out of the caldron." ¹⁶ And if the man that sacrificed said, "First let the fat be burned, as it is fit, and take for yourself of all things which your soul desires," then he would say, "No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not I will take it by force." ¹⁷ So the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for they despised the offering of the Lord.

¹⁸ And Samuel ministered before the Lord, a child wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ And his mother made him a little robe, and brought it to him from year to year, in her going up in company with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, saying, "The Lord recompense to you decendants from this woman, in return for the loan which you have lent to the Lord." And the man returned to his place. ²¹ And the Lord visited Anna, and she bore yet three sons, and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

²² And Eli was very old, and he heard what his sons did to the children of Israel. ²³ And he said to them, "Why do you do such things, which I hear from the mouth of all the people of the Lord?" ²⁴ No my sons! For the report which I hear is not good. Do not *do* so, for the reports which I hear are not good, so that the people do not serve God. ²⁵ If a man should at all sin against another, then shall they pray for him to the Lord; but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, because the Lord desired to destroy them. ²⁶ And the child Samuel grew, and was in favor with God and with men.

²⁷ And a man of God came to Eli, and said, "Thus says the Lord, I plainly revealed Myself to the house of your father, when they were servants in Egypt to the house of Pharaoh. ²⁸ And I chose the house of your father out of all the tribes of Israel to minister to Me in the priest's office, to go up to My altar, and to burn incense, and to wear an ephod. And I gave to the house of your father all the offerings by fire of the children of Israel for food. ²⁹ Therefore why have you looked upon My incense offering and My grain offering with a shameless eye, and have honored your sons above Me, so that they should bless themselves with the firstfruits of every sacrifice of Israel before Me?" ³⁰ Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel: I said, Your house and the house of your father shall pass before Me forever: but now the Lord says, 'Far be it from Me; for I will only honor them that honor Me, and he that despises Me shall be despised. ³¹ Behold, the days are coming when I will destroy your seed, and the seed of your father's house. ³² And you shall not have an old man in My house forever. ³³ And if I do not destroy a man of yours from My altar, *it shall be* that his eyes may fail and his soul may perish; and everyone that remains in your house shall fall by the sword of men. ³⁴ And this which shall come upon your two sons Hophni and Phineas shall be a sign to you: in one day they shall both die. ³⁵ And I will raise up to Myself a faithful priest, who shall do all that is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My Christ forever. ³⁶ And it shall come to pass that he that survives in your house will come and bow down before him for a little piece of silver, saying, "Put me into one of your priest's offices to eat bread."'"