

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

1 SAMUEL 1

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Welcome to the Book of I Samuel! The book takes its name from the man who is at the center of the continuing story of God and the one who anoints the first two kings of the United Monarchy of the nation of Israel. The Books of Samuel, I and II come to us courtesy of the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible. When the translation from Hebrew to Greek was being done, the translators divided the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles into two divisions for each book. This is why we have six books in our English Bibles instead of three books as in the Hebrew Bible. The period of Samuel's life occurred during the last days of the Judges. Samuel was a prophet and priest and somewhat served as a ruler, not a king. He anointed kings. Samuel lived a long life from approximately 1100-1010 B.C.

Chapter one of I Samuel opens with the story of Samuel's family and the contextual background into which he was born. Eli was high priest in the capital of the nation of Israel in Shiloh in the hill country of Ephraim. The tabernacle or tent of meeting that had been set up by Joshua, nearly four hundred years earlier was functioning

as the central place of the worship of the God of Israel. Each year the godly of Israel made pilgrimages to this sacred place. Among the pilgrims was a man named Elkanah and his two wives, one of which was Hannah, who was barren; she could not have children. She was incredibly sad and prayed earnestly for a child and promised that if God would grant her a child than she would give him back to God all the days of his life. God heard her prayer at the entrance of the tabernacle's gate and answered her. Eli the priest who first scolded her, thinking she was drunk for her carrying on, ultimately blessed her and asked that her prayer be answered. God did answer her prayer; that answer was Samuel. She gave Him to God in total dedication and he was raised in the tabernacle among the priests, and she visited him throughout the years of her life.

Prayer and Action Steps

God hears the prayers of the lonely, the forsaken, the barren and the neglected. God hears your prayers. Pray and spend time communicating with God today. He hears you.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

