



chapter one

The Birth of Samuel



There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.³ Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priest of the Lord. ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But

to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶ Because the Lord had closed

1 Samuel 1

15 Snaefell Summit

Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.

7

This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.⁸ Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"⁹

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house.¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly.

¹¹"And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."¹²

As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard.

Eli thought she was drunk¹⁴ and said to her, "How

1 Samuel 1

15 Snaefell Summit

long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."¹⁵ "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD.¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been playing here out of my great anguish and grief."¹⁷ Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him"¹⁸ She said, "May your servant find favour in your eyes" Then she went her way and ate something,¹⁹ and her face was no longer downcast. Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the Lord and then went back to their home in Ramah. Elkanah had love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her.²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him"

21 Hannah Dedicates Samuel.

When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow,²² Hannah did not go.

She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always."

23 "Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh.

1 Samuel 1

15 Snaefell Summit

²⁵ When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought
the boy to Eli, and she said to him,
"Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live,
I am the woman who stood here beside you
²⁶ praying to the lord. So now I give him to the
LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to
the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.
²⁷ So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he
will be given over to the LORD. And he worshipped the
LORD there.



Chapter Two

Hannah's Prayer



hen Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.

2) There is no one holy like the Lord,

There is no one besides you;

3) There is no Rock like our God.

"Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.⁴ "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.⁵ Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are

hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has ⁶ had many sons pines away. "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and exalts.

8 He ~~also~~ raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour.

"For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's on them he has set the world.⁹ He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.

"It is not by strength that one prevails;

"those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The most high will thunder from heaven; The Lord will Judge the ends of the earth.

"He will give strength to his King and exalt the horn of his anointed"

"Then Elkanah went home to Ramah but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.

Eli's Wicked Sons.

12 Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for

the LORD.¹³ Now it was the practise of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand

while the meat was being boiled

¹⁴ and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest

World take for Himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.¹⁵ But even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw!"¹⁶ If the person said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now;¹⁷ if you don't, I'll take it by force!" This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD'S sight, for they were treating the LORD'S offering with contempt.¹⁸

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD — a boy wearing a linen ephod.¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD." Then they would go home.

²¹

And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

²²

Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²³

So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.²⁴ No, my sons; the report^s I hear spreading among the LORD's people is not good. If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if another sins against the LORD, who will intercede for them?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death.²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the LORD and with people.

²⁷

Now a man of God came to Eli and said

to him, "This is what the Lord says:

Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor's family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh? ²⁸ I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your ancestor's family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites.

^{29.}

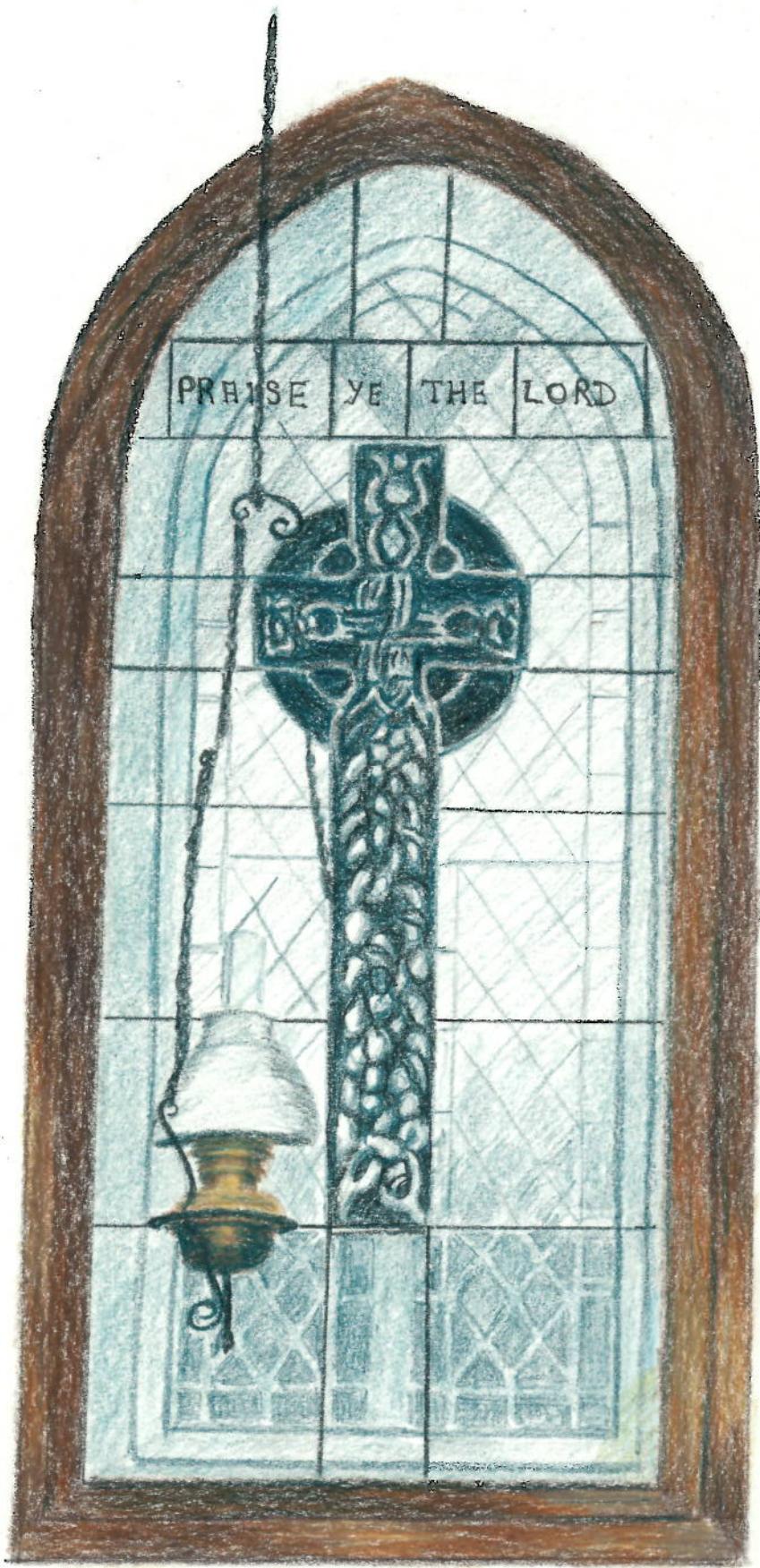
Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honour your sons more than me by fastening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?

^{30.} Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.' But now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained. ^{31.} The time is coming

when I will cut short your strength
and the strength of your priestly
house, so that no one in it will reach
old age,³² and you will see distress in my
dwelling. Although good will be done to
Israel, no one in your³³ family line will
ever reach old age. Every one of you that
I do not cut off from serving at my altar I will
spare only to destroy your sight and sap your
strength, and all your descendants will die in the
prime of life.

³⁴ And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and
Phinehas, will be a sign to you - they will both die
on the same day. I will raise up
for myself a faithful
priest, who will do
according to what is
in my heart and mind.
I will firmly establish his priestly house, and
they will minister before my anointed one always

36 Then everyone left in your family line
will come and bow down before him for
a piece of silver and a loaf of bread and
plead, "Appoint me to some priestly office so
I can have food to eat." ^{11,12}



Chapter three

1 Samuel 3

15

Abbeylands

The Lord calls Samuel



The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was safe; there were not many visions.² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.

3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered "Here I am".

4 Then the LORD called Samuel. 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the word of

The Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy.⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "GO and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak for your servant is listening."¹⁰

¹¹ And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family - from beginning to end.¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them.¹⁴ Therefore I ~~saw~~ swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never ~~be~~ be atoned.'

1 Samuel 3

15

Mallmore
Port St Mary

¹⁵ *let by the sacrifice or offering."*

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am."

¹⁷ "What was it he said before to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you."¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."¹⁹

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.²¹ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.²¹ The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.