

The Parents of Samuel

“9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.” (1 Samuel 1:9-11 KJV)

The above Scripture was part of the prayer of Hannah to the Lord asking Him to give her a son. She was in deep anguish because she was living in a culture that was disgraceful for a married woman not to have children. However, in her prayer, there was an interesting thing that the Lord was pleased with. She promised the Lord that if He will give her a son she will do the following: *“Then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.” (1 Samuel 1:11 KJV)* The Lord is glad to hear you committing yourself to give your child to the Lord and raising him in the fear of God.

Indeed the Lord fulfilled His promise to her, *“20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.” (1 Samuel 1:20 KJV)* So here Hannah dedicated her child to the Lord, and we need to observe here that the dedication of Samuel started with the commitment of his mother even before she got conceived of him. Such awareness of whatever the Lord would be going to give us need to be dedicated to Him should be in the mind of every married man or woman. Hannah dedicated her child to be given to the Lord in the following manner:

A. “I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life”: His whole life will live and serve the Lord.

B. “And there shall no razor come upon his head”: She meant the child will be a Nazarite, vowed and dedicated to the Lord and separated from the world unto the Lord. *Numbers 6* describes to us the rules of the Nazarites: *“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: 3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. 4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk. 5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. 6 All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no dead body. 7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head. 8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD.” (Numbers 6:1-8 KJV)* The Nazarites look strange from the people around them; they have long hair, they live in abstinence from grape and wine, and will not be touching a dead body. So they are different from others around them and they live differently. * In the same way, our children whom we dedicate to the Lord

should be different from the children of other people around them; for example, not watching television, not playing video and computer games, not going to parties, and not living in a sinful way of life. * Through our prayers and our commitment to the Lord to work with Him to bring our children as Godly offspring serving Him, the Lord will make a way for them to be raised as God’s servants.

Samuel was born and raised in a critical period in the life of the people of God. His birth and his raising up as a man of God, who would lead revival, were needed for the following reasons and circumstances.

1. Period of corruption even in the office of the priesthood: “12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. 13 And the priest’s custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest’s servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; 14 And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. 15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest’s servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. 16 And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. 17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.” (1 Samuel 2:12-17 KJV) Even in the church today, many are corrupting God’s ways; they are using the Lord’s house to make living and to live an easy and luxurious life, fattening themselves with gatherings and functions that are rich with food and good compliments. Therefore there is much need today to raise Godly children to be Godly leaders, like Samuel, who will serve God with pure and honest motives.

2. Period of moral decay in the office of the priesthood: “22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.” (1 Samuel 2:22 KJV) The children of the priest were committing adultery and having extramarital affairs with the women who were serving at the entrance of the tent of meeting. Even today many workers and pastors having affairs and extramarital relationships and adultery are condoned by many who are involved in God’s service.

* Practices of boyfriend and girlfriend, courting, and dating that would lead to fornication are honored and not condemned in many churches. * Therefore there is much need today to raise up Godly children who are shielded from these evil practices and led into family life through Godly marriage and good preparation. * Such kind of Godly children who live in God’s will and form Godly families are suitable leaders who will impart Godliness and holiness to the Church of God.

3. The Word of God and God’s vision were rare: “1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.” (1 Samuel 3:1 KJV) Even the same now, many churches are without the vision or purpose of God. The messages are diluted and of human origin, and not based on or supported with Scriptures. Corrupted leaders need to be replaced with Godly ones so that God would start to speak and send visions once again.

4. The father of Samuel was committing adultery: “1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: 2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.” (1 Samuel 1:1-2 KJV) Elkanah the father of Samuel was a Levite, who knew the Word of God that tells that he should have one wife, but he had two wives. The following is the genealogy of Samuel that showed he came from Kohath the son of Levi:

“31 And these are they whom David set over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after that the ark had rest. 32 And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem: and then they waited on their office according to their order. 33 And these are they that waited with their children. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman a singer, the son of Joel, the son of Shemuel, 34 The son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah, 35 The son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai, 36 The son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah, 37 The son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, 38 The son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel. 39 And his brother Asaph, who stood on his right hand, even Asaph the son of Berachiah, the son of Shimea, 40 The son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchiah, 41 The son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah, 42 The son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei, 43 The son of Jahath, the son of Gershom, the son of Levi.” (1 Chronicles 6:31-43 KJV) But Elkanah in spite he knew the Word of God, disobeyed God and married Peninnah because Hannah was barren. So even the father of Samuel was in sin, but Samuel was raised as a Godly man because his mother Hannah committed her life to God that her son Samuel would be raised to serve God. **So even you today, might be having a spouse who is in sin and live-in with another partner; but you can still raise your child or children in a Godly way as Hannah did, as you commit your life to dedicate yourself and your child or children unto the Lord.**

5. The people of God were idol worshippers: “3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. 4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.” (1 Samuel 7:3-4 KJV) At the time of Samuel the Israelites were serving their idols in addition to their service and worship unto God. * In the same way, now, many Christians are still in the world worshipping and serving their ambitions, plans, their greed and lust, their worldliness, and their pleasures with large numbers of idols and figures whom they esteem and spend on, and are still honoring feast offering food to their idols as Halloween, Valentine, Christmas, New Year, Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, etc. * Therefore there is an increasing demand for Godly leaders who can be a model to the people of how to be faithful to the call of God.

In the mid of that atmosphere, Samuel was born, with all the factors that we discussed, you may say, how he can be grown up as a Godly child and minister? The truth that God worked through the commitment of his mother and her dedication to raise him as a Godly child. Let us read the following Scriptures to observe how God made Samuel grow and answer the prayer of his mother Hannah.

a. From his infancy Samuel worshipped the Lord: Let us read Samuel’s birth and his dedication to God and observe which time he worshipped God. “20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD. 21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. 22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever. 23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. 24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. 25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. 27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: 28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.” (1 Samuel 1:20-28 KJV) **Our dedicated attitude toward God and our commitment to raise our children in a Godly way would bring them ultimately to worship God and to serve Him.**

b. Samuel ministered before the Lord from his childhood: “But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.” (1 Samuel 2:18 KJV) Samuel was born in a Levite family but now he was promoted to be in a level of a priest because he was living with a priest family, serving and ministering before the Lord under Eli the priest. **Our children whom we dedicate unto the Lord will ultimately minister before God even from their childhood.**

c. Samuel raised up as an attested prophet of God: “19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. 21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. 1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.” (1 Samuel 3:19-4:1 KJV) Samuel was raised as an attested minister of God who was rich with God’s Word, prophetic messages, and God’s visions. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit of God who was speaking to him and directing him in the affairs of the Kingdom through His Word. **In the same way, our children as we care for them spiritually they will be raised up as attested servants of God who are rich with God’s Word and God’s visions to feed and to lead the Church of God.**

d. Samuel anointed two Kings: He anointed Saul, “1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?” (1 Samuel 10:1 KJV) And he anointed David, “13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.” (1 Samuel 16:13 KJV) **In the same way, our children will anoint others to serve God.**

e. Samuel established a school of prophets: Let us read about that: **“19 And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah. 20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. 21 And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. 22 Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah. 23 And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?” (1 Samuel 19:19-24 KJV)** Samuel established a school of prophets to train them to be the next generation after him. **Our children through the anointing of the Holy Spirit will be effective disciples’ multipliers, who will establish authenticated ministries to train and to raise Godly children and servants to serve the Lord.**

My Dear and Beloved: * In spite of all the corruption and the moral decay in the society and in the life of the family and even the church today, where corruption, immoralities and idol worship widely spread, but still possible to those who are willing to follow God to raise their children in the fear of God. And the Lord shall help them if they are willing to stand for God and obey His Word. * Even to those who are in sexual immoralities if they are willing to separate themselves from sin and break that immoral relationship and live as a single parents then the Lord shall help them and provide sufficiently for them to raise up their children in the ways of God and will have good future.

We need to be inspired with the message that whatever the moral and spiritual deterioration, and even in the life of the church, but still we can trust God that He will make a way for us to succeed to raise our children in the fear of God, and that God shall make for them a good future that they will serve Him and live their lives for Him. Let us pray ...

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that encouraged me to continue to do my part to raise my children in the fear of God trusting you that you will be doing your part and secure a good future for them. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes and the corrections that I received in this message.*

Come to God now and repent of all your sins. Repent and renounce the corruption and the immoralities that you are living in your life. Repent of your doubts, lack of faith and discouragements. Repent of your non willingness to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Repent and renounce your worldliness and doing your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Repent and renounce your lack of family worship, praying and reading the Bible with them. Repent of being yoked with non believers and spending much time with your friends, and on the Media and News. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to be separated from sin and the relationship that brings that sin. Lord I commit myself to discipline my family and children and raise them in the fear of yours and dedicate them to serve you. Lord I trust you fully and I will do your will whatever the outcome

will be. Lord I commit myself to continue to serve you until you come and take me with you to Heaven.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to do your will by teaching their children, disciplining them, and raise them in the fear of yours. Lord answer their prayers, protect them, shield them from the moral decay and the corruption and build up the good future for their children. Lord use their lives as testimonies to others to continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach your Word and help your people, the families under our care to be cleansed from sins and to separate themselves from the corruption and the moral decay that taking place around them. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages to happen and more Godly families to be formed and more children to be dedicated to you. Lord we pray for more single parents to be separate from sins and dedicate themselves to serve you. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.’ Lord take the message and spread it to bring the fruits you desire. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Parents of Samuel. 1 Samuel 1:1-2, 9-11, 20-28. Numbers 6:1-8. 1 Samuel 2:12-18, 22. 1 Samuel 3:1, 19-4:1. 1 Chronicles 6:31-43. 1 Samuel 7:3-4. 1 Samuel 10:1. 1 Samuel 16:13. 1 Samuel 19:19-24.

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