

Hannah & The Kingdom of God

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Salvation History began when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. **The objective of the Plan of God is the Kingdom of God.** God the Father and YHWH, Jesus Christ, assembled the Plan of God before creation. Satan has always been there trying to defeat God. **Salvation history is the record of how God has worked out the Plan of God.** Salvation History ends with God the Father establishing his presence on earth in "**the holy city, new Jerusalem**". (Gn3:1a,22-23a, Rv12:4b, 21:1-3a)

The Role of Hannah in Salvation History: At the end of the period of the Judges, the extinction of the nation of Israel seemed inevitable (1Sm4:10-11a, 13:19,22). **Israel was at a critical juncture:** Satan was attempting to destroy the nation. We have no indication of how few True Worshipers existed in Israel at the time of Hannah; but, under similar circumstances in the time of Elijah, it was down to just a few thousand (1Kg19:18a). **Hannah** was humble and faithful – **she only sought to serve God, but she earned a treasured place in the annals of Salvation History through the son granted by her prayer and vow, Samuel.**

Samuel: Prophet and Judge: Once commissioned by God, **Samuel quickly earned recognition** (1Sm3:19-20). When Eli and his sons were killed, **Samuel assumed the position of Judge of Israel** (1Sm7:15-17a). The root, שָׁפַט - shaphat, carries "the primary sense ... **to exercise the process of government**". The position of "judge" meant the highest position of "government" – Samuel was the last "judge" (At13:20b). As "Judge of Israel", **Samuel's first concern was to reform the nation.** He inaugurated this with a **covenant recommitment ceremony** (1Sm7:2b-6a,9). Samuel defeated the Philistines and **established a period of peace** (1Sm7:7-8,10b-11a, 12-14). There is no specific description of the origin of the **Schools of the Prophets**, but it is generally agreed that they were an innovation of Samuel to restore knowledge and worship of God in Israel (1Sm10:5,10a, 19:18-20a). This was the beginning of the "prophetic institution" in Israel (At3:24).

Samuel and King Saul: By the time Samuel was about 60 years old, he had appointed his sons as "judges", but they were NOT trustworthy – **the people used this as an excuse to demand a king.** Samuel balked at the request, but **God acquiesced** (1Sm8:1, 3-7). **King Saul is a classic "tragic figure"** – God worked with him and gave him every opportunity to succeed; but, Saul repeatedly made bad decisions, and would NOT repent, but tried to justify his actions (1Sm 9:27, 10:1a, 13:8b-9a,12b, 15:13-15a). Clearly, **God was planning a king in Israel** – he was preparing **David**, but **the people's demand** came before David was ready; hence, their demand **was considered a "great sin"** (1Sm10:18b-19a, 12:19). **Saul** may be looked upon as just "placeholder", but he **had every opportunity to succeed**, and his reign did NOT have to end the way it did – David could have become King after Saul, and **David's line could have continued through Saul's daughter** (1Sm9:2, 11:15, 13:13b).

Samuel and David: When God was ready to identify David as his choice for King, he sent Samuel to anoint him (1Sm16:1,11a,12b-13a). **Until his death, Samuel remained a confidant of David** (1Sm19:11a,18, 25:1, 1Chr9:22b, 29:29). God had prepared David, but Samuel's influence cannot be discounted (1Sm13:14b, At13:20b-23). Even after Saul turned on David and tried to kill him, **David was constantly aware that God would work out his Plan.** David was well aware that his status, as "son-in-law" of the King, legitimately put him in line for the throne (1Sm18:20a,21b,23,26a, 24:5, 26:23). When **Saul and Jonathan were killed**, David deeply mourned because it was the worst possible outcome (2Sm1:17,19-23,25).

The Kingdom of David – a Type of the Kingdom of God: (Mk11:10) When **David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem**, he was aware of the significance of his Kingdom as God's Kingdom and Jerusalem as the "dwelling place" of God (Ps68:24-26, 24:7-9). When **Solomon inherited David's Kingdom**, its status was described idyllically in the same terms as the Kingdom of God in the World Tomorrow (1Kg4:25, Mc4:4, Zc3:10). **David is the progenitor of the "eternal dynasty"** (2Sm7:10a,11b-12,14b,13b,16).

All Because a Woman Prayed: The working-out of the Plan of God is firmly in God's control. We can look back over Salvation History and see the opportunities God has granted to individuals to participate in his Plan. **Hannah could have become bitter under her circumstances, but she prayed**, and she vowed to God that she, and the son for whom she prayed, would serve God. God answered her prayer, and **Hannah**, as "**the mother of a bringer of salvation**", stands forever as one of God's greatest heroes. (Ps99:6, Hb11:32).

God will accomplish his Plan. Hannah in faith and humility looked beyond her circumstances to serve God. God allowed her the privilege of a son, Samuel. **Samuel became a great servant of God in no small part because of his mother, Hannah.** Hannah and Mary, the mother of Jesus, remain forever connected through their sons. As with Hannah and Mary, **God offers us a part in this glorious heritage, The Plan of God.**

The material is based on the paper "True Worship of the True God" available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>.

The PowerPoint slides are located at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>.