

Hannah and Samuel



38Page

Narration A man named Elkanah lived in Israel. Elkanah had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Penninah. Penninah had children but Hannah had none. So, Penninah thought she was better than Hannah. But Elkanah loved Hannah more. Knowing this, Penninah made fun of Hannah until she wept.

Penninah So stupid! You can't even have children!

Narration Hannah was distraught because she could not have children. She wept and wept and did not eat. Her husband, Elkanah, tried to console her but she was still heartbroken.



39Page

Narration Hannah cried and went to the temple of God. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to God, weeping bitterly.

Hannah Lord, if you will give me a son, I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life.

Narration Hannah prayed to God for a long time. Eli the priest entered the temple as she was praying. Because Hannah had been praying for a long time without a sound although her lips were moving, Eli the priest thought she was drunk and scolded her.

Eli How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine!

Hannah I have not been drinking at all my lord. I am a woman who is deeply troubled and I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.

Narration Having heard Hannah's story, Eli the priest blessed Hannah.

Eli I see. Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.

Narration Hannah left with a grateful heart. Then she ate and did not worry about it again.

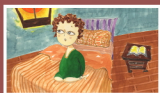


40Page

Narration God remembered Hannah. Soon after Hannah returned home, Hannah became pregnant, and when the time came, she gave birth to a son who she named Samuel. Hannah loved Samuel and nurtured him with all her heart until it was time to wean him. After he was weaned, she took Samuel to God's temple as she had promised God.



41Page



42Page



43Page



44Page

Hannah My lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for a son and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord - for his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.

Narration And Hannah worshipped the Lord with joy and thanks.

Narration The boy Samuel ministered with Eli the priest in God's temple and served the Lord. God blessed Hannah and gave her three more sons and two daughters.

Narration Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord. Then one night, Samuel heard a strange noise. That night, like any other night, Samuel was lying in his usual place in the temple where God's ark was kept.

God Samuel! Samuel!

Narration Samuel ran to Eli the priest as fast as he could.

Samuel My lord, here I am, did you call me?

Eli No my child! I did not call you; go back and lie down!

Narration Samuel returned to the temple.

God Samuel! Samuel!

Narration Again, Samuel heard his name being called.

And so, Samuel ran to Eli the priest.

Samuel My lord, here I am, did you call me?

Eli No my child! I did not call you; go back and lie down!

Narration And so Samuel returned to the temple and as he did so...

God Samuel! Samuel!

Narration Samuel heard his name being called again.

Samuel Priest Eli, I...

Eli Goodness!! I have just managed to get back to sleep!!

Narration Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy.

Eli (clearing throat) eh-hem.. Samuel! Go lie down and if he calls you again say,

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening!

Narration When Samuel returned to the temple, he heard the voice again, calling him.

God Samuel! Samuel!



45Page

Samuel Lord, speak, for I am listening.

Narration From then on God spoke to Samuel and the Lord was with Samuel as he grew up. And so, every one came to know that Samuel had been approved as a prophet of the Lord.

.....

Narration Samuel shared all that God told him with the people of Israel. And so, for a long time Samuel served the Lord. Samuel lived to govern and guide the Israelites in the ways of the Lord and God appointed many kings of Israel through Samuel. Samuel was a great man - he was a man who taught and shared the words of God to the Israelites.



46Page