



1

The birth and early years of Samuel

- 1 Chronicles 6 reveals that Elkanah, the father of Samuel was a Levite. They lived in the hill country within the inheritance of Ephraim. Remember that the Levites had no inheritance other than the 48 cities which included the 6 cities of refuge.
- Ramah was the town where Deborah had been a judge of Israel.
- Samuel functioned as a prophet, priest and judge.
 - Prophet 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Chronicles 35:18; Acts 3:24
 - Judge 1 Samuel 7:6,15-17; Acts 13:20
 - Priest Psalm 99:6; 1 Samuel 7:9-10

2

The birth and early years of Samuel

- The story gives some insight into the chaotic era of the judges.
 - The Tent of Meeting and thus the place of sacrifice was at Shiloh.
 - The High Priest was a man named Eli and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas functioned as the priest.
 - As the story unfolds the sinfulness of Hophni and Phinehas along with the passivity of their father Eli give insight as to why the Israelites had little knowledge and even less regard for God's Law.

3

The birth and early years of Samuel

- The story gives some insight into the chaotic era of the judges.
 - The story also brings up the thorny issue of polygamy.
 - Polygamy was practiced by many of the prominent figures in the Old Testament
 - Abraham, Jacob, Gideon, David, Solomon
 - Monogamy was practiced by several of the prominent figures in the Old Testament
 - Joseph, Job, Moses, Isaiah, Hosea, Ezekiel

4

The birth and early years of Samuel

- The story gives some insight into the chaotic era of the judges.
 - The story also brings up the thorny issue of polygamy.
 - The Law regulates polygamy by protecting the women but polygamy is not prescribed by the Law. (Deuteronomy 21:15-17)
 - Polygamy showcases the sinfulness of humanity and the grace of God.

5

The birth and early years of Samuel

- The story gives some insight into the chaotic era of the judges.
 - The story also brings up the thorny issue of polygamy.
 - We always must come back to the standard clearly set by the Word of God.
 - For marriage, this is one man and one woman in a one-flesh relationship for life. Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6

6

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Hannah
 - One of the two wives of Elkanah.
 - Had not been able to conceive but well treated by her husband.
 - Tormented by Elkanah's other wife.
 - On this occasion of the yearly pilgrimage to Shiloh she poured out her heart to God and made a vow that if He would give her a son, she would rear him as a Nazarite and give Him to God's service.

7

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Hannah
 - Eli, at first, misinterpreted her sorrow for drunkenness but when he realized her sincere distress, he sent her away with assurance that God would hear her prayer.
 - Hannah did conceive and bear a son and called his name Samuel.

8

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Samuel
 - Kept at home until he was weaned.
 - Hannah had revealed to her husband Elkanah her vow to give Samuel to the service of the LORD at the place of the Tent of Meeting and he was in support of it. (Numbers 30:10-12)
 - Samuel would have been about four years old when taken and left with Eli.

9

The birth and early years of Samuel

- Hannah's psalm of praise
 - She praises Yahweh as her strength and salvation.
 - She praises God for holiness and faithfulness.
 - She eloquently states what Peter concisely states in 1 Peter 5:5, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
 - The psalm ends with the prophetic utterance concerning kings in Israel. Her son Samuel would anoint the first two kings.
