

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December, 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02.....	Prayer
2)	13 Dec.....	1Samuel 03-04.....	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02.....	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07.....	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027.....	1Samuel 08-14.....	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
9)	31 Jan.....	1Samuel 17.....	Victory
10)	07 Feb.....	1Samuel 18-21.....	Friendship
11)	14 Feb.....	1Samuel 22-24.....	Respect
12)	21 Feb.....	1Samuel 25.....	Discernment
13)	28 Feb.....	1Samuel 26-31.....	Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- In 1Samuel, we are introduced to Elkanah, his two wives, Peninnah and Hannah, to the High Priest, Eli, and his two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas, and we see God providentially answering prayers for a baby who would be a new prophet, priest, and judge to help reverse the ineffective and even decadent priesthood and transition governing authority from judges to a monarchy (First Saul, then David)
- Sometimes it is hard to keep 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles straight. Here is a short synopsis of each:
 - 1Samuel – King Saul's reign
 - 2Samuel – King David's reign
 - 1Kings – Judean Kings Solomon to Jehoshaphat & Elijah
 - 2Kings – Judean & Israelite Kings with Prophet Elisha
 - 1Chronicles – Recap of King David's reign
 - 2Chronicles – Recap of Judean Kings Solomon-Zedekiah
- God allowed Israel to experience several styles of government:
 - First, Moses and Joshua operated within a theocratic system where God laid down the laws
 - Next, God selected specific men and women as Judges who would rescue Israel from oppressive regimes
 - Here in 1Samuel, we see Israel transitioning from being ruled by Judges and by a Prophet/Priest/Judge (Samuel) to being ruled by a King
- Unfortunately, Israel, because of hard hearts, refused to submit wholly to any authority, for they most often did what was right in their own eyes.....[Judges 21:25](#)
- Remember This.** God considered all Israel as His people, His children, His nation; BUT we know "they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel".....[Romans 9:6](#)
 - IOW, not all Israelites are Heaven-bound, though God calls them all His people
 - One day when Israel is reconstituted (Probably post-millennial reign of Christ), they will ALL be righteous (IOW, saved to the uttermost).....[Isaiah 60:21](#)
- And one day, Israel, along with all other nations, will be ruled by Jesus Christ, a King/Priest of the Davidic bloodline and Melchizedek's priestly line

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 1:1-9	Dysfunctional Families Cannot Stop God-Directed Destinies - Elkanah had 2 wives, one taunted the other, and the other was more favored – and Samuel would be given up for adoption / foster care - God is not hampered by dysfunctional or even ungodly homes to be able to raise up godly disciples. - God is more concerned where we are going, then where we've been
1:10-31	Bargaining with God - vv10-11. Does God still honor such vows today? Example: "Give me a baby, health, or possessions, and I promise to be faithful." - Possibly! BUT be careful what vows you make - God is not pleased with useless words or vow breakers. Ecc 5:2-5 - NT tells us to avoid meaningless vows.....Mat 5:37 & Jms 5:12 - vv12-13. Is there any benefit(s) to praying out loud vs silently? - Scripture is clear that God know what's in our hearts and minds, so silent prayers are no problem with God..... Ps 44:21; Rom 8:27 - And God likes to hear us pray out loud. Even Jesus prayed out loud and God heard him.....Heb 5:7 - Is there any strategy to praying silently vs praying out loud? Can Satan read our minds like God can? Consider this: Our hearts (i.e., our minds, thoughts, true character) are known only by God since it is part of His divine attributes..... Ps 139:1-4; John 2:23-25
Was Samuel of the tribe of Ephraim, or was he a Levite, or possibly a Priest from the clan of Aaron?	- Four (4) Levite family groups had special duties – Gershon, Merari, Kohath, and Amram. Amram was a descendant of Kohath, & he was also the father of Aaron and Moses.....Exodus 6:20 - Gershonites were responsible for:..... Tabernacle artifacts - Merarites..... Tent coverings - Kohathites..... Sanctuary artifacts - Amramites (sons of Moses and Aaron)..... Priestly duties Samuel is seen as a Prophet, Priest, and Judge. 1Chronicles 6:16-27 clearly shows Samuel's Levitical descent → Levi → Kohath → Jerotham his son, Elkanah his son, and Samuel his son

Passage	Comments
	- But was Samuel of Aaronic descendant for him to rightly perform priestly sacrifices of animals and offerings as he did in 1Samuel 7? - We do not have a specific passage in Scripture that clearly links Samuel to Aaron, but we do have God accepting Samuel's sacrifice and positively answering his prayers.....1Samuel 7:9 - Also, note that Samuel's 2 sons (Joel and Abijah) followed their dad's occupation as judges, but not as priests as Eli's 2 sons did. - But Samuel was provided an ephod (1 Samuel 2:18), a priestly robe, and he was permitted to sleep within the temple compound at Shilo (3:1-15), indicating his worthiness to be a priest, presumably through direct lineage to Aaron, or from adoption by Eli - We can assume, then, either Samuel did descend from Aaron or he had an unnamed priest with him who performed the sacrifices (similar to how sacrifices were attributed to David, though David did not actually perform the priestly sacrifices).....2Samuel 24:25 - Another possibility is that God allowed an exception in Samuel's case as He similarly allowed other Levites to help the few priests who were purified to make Passover sacrifices during Hezekiah's reign.....2Chronicles 29:34 - Levites were scattered throughout the land of Israel, so being called an Ephraimite was kosher since his clan lived in Ephraim's territory
2:1-11	Hannah's Prayer of Praise - vv1-10. Her praise highlights many of God's dichotomous traits between the Wicked [W] and the Righteous [R] - v4. The Wicked are broken, the Righteous are strengthened - v5. The Wicked soon hunger; the Righteous are soon fed - v6. God brings death [to the W]; gives life [to the R] - v7. God brings poverty [to the W]; gives wealth [to the R]; and he humbles [the W.] and exalts [the R.] - v9. God guards the steps of the R.; and the W. are silenced in darkness (IOW, at the worst possible time for them) - v11. How could a loving mom abandon her kid so readily and easily? Could it be said she loved the Giver more than the gift?
2:12-36	Righteous Eli and His Undisciplined and Wicked Boys are Judged - vv12-17. Eli's sons "had no regard for the Lord"....and "treated the Lord's offering with contempt" – and these were church people - How do Christians show contempt for God today? - v22. They were even sleeping with ladies within the church - How do we fix such contempt? What are the principles to use? - v26. Yet, Samuel grew in stature (physically) and in favor with God and with men. This was also said of Christ.....Luke 2:52 - vv29-30. Eli is rebuked for honoring His kids over God, and God says He will no longer honor his covenant with Eli. Was God unfaithful on a promise? - Such promises were conditional (God will keep His covenant if Israel would remain faithful – but they weren't).....Deut 31:16-17 - However, some of God's covenants were unconditional – Davidic covenant, e.g., to raise up a King/Priest/Prophet – Jesus Christ - vv35-36. "God will raise up a faithful priest who will have a lasting dynasty." Most scholars believe this alludes to Zadok, who's priestly line remained faithful during Israel's idolatrous years.....Ezekiel 44:15

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- If a church endured such horrendous unfaithfulness by many of its leaders and congregants, how should the faithful behave and react? Should they stay to fix things, stop going to church, or go somewhere else? See lesson on [1John-2](#).

NEXT WEEK: 1Samual 3-4. God establishes Samuel as a "confirmed" Prophet.



1Samuel 2:11-17. Eli's evil sons manipulated the sacrifices, so their portions were 'super-sized'.