

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

Sunday School Lessons — by Keith R. Blades

Lesson 40: Child Samuel: I Samuel 1 – 2

Comprehension Questions & Answers

Q1. What was happening in the tabernacle at Shiloh that made Israel's spiritual condition especially shocking at this time?

Answer: *The two sons of Eli — Hophni and Phinehas — who served as 'the priests of the LORD' were 'sons of Belial' who 'knew not the LORD' (I Samuel 2:12). These very men entrusted with representing God to Israel didn't personally believe in the LORD at all and were idol worshippers. They stole from the sacrifices, threatened the people who came to worship, and committed sexual sins right at the door of the tabernacle — turning the worship of God into something oppressive and hateful.*

Q2. What should Israel have done about Eli's sons according to the Law contract, and what actually happened?

Answer: *Under the terms of the Law contract Hophni and Phinehas were criminals against God and Israel who deserved to be put to death. But Israel did nothing — they apparently went along with the corruption at the tabernacle and tolerated it. Because the people would not act, God declared He would judge Eli's sons Himself, and He would do so as part of the final round of afflictions under the first course of punishment, using the Philistines once more against Israel.*

Q3. Who were Elkanah and Hannah, and how did they stand apart from the rest of Israel at this time?

Answer: *Elkanah and Hannah were a faithful couple who went yearly to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD in accordance with the Law contract — standing in stark contrast to the widespread apostasy of the nation around them. Hannah in particular had such genuine dedication to the LORD that when Eli mistakenly accused her of drunkenness she was deeply hurt and strongly denied being a 'daughter of Belial' — the very ones who were all too abundant in Israel at that time.*

Q4. What vow did Hannah make to the LORD, and what did it involve?

Answer: *Hannah vowed that if the LORD would give her a son she would give him back to the LORD all the days of his life, and 'there shall no razor come upon his head' — a vow to raise her son as a Nazarite dedicated to God's special use (I Samuel 1:11). The lesson suggests Hannah made this vow with full understanding of Israel's deplorable apostasy and of what God had done through the other Nazarite Samson, recognizing that a Nazarite judge was exactly what the nation desperately needed.*

Q5. Why would Samuel be especially well-positioned to judge Israel, and what did he represent for the nation?

Answer: *Samuel would be raised up right at Shiloh — in the very center of Israel's greatest apostasy — where he would witness all the workings of Hophni and Phinehas and be taught directly by the LORD about the details of Israel's rebelliousness. From this unique vantage point he would judge Israel. He represented the nation's final opportunity under the first course of punishment to respond properly to God's chastening before the second course would have to commence. Hannah's prayer of rejoicing also testified to what Samuel represented: that God's 'Jehovah-ness' and grace was Israel's only hope.*

Fill in the Blank

A. Lesson Concepts

WORD BANK

Eli | God | Hannah | Hannah's | Nazarite | Samuel | Shiloh | priests

1. _____ prayed fervently at the tabernacle in _____ for a son, vowing that if God gave her a child she would dedicate him to the LORD all his days.
2. God answered _____'s prayer and she bore a son whom she named _____, which means 'asked of God' or 'heard of God.'
3. _____ was dedicated as a _____ from birth, meaning he was set apart to God's service and his hair would never be cut.
4. The two sons of _____ — Hophni and Phinehas — were corrupt _____ who did not know the LORD and turned the worship at the tabernacle into something hateful.
5. God sent a man of God to warn Eli that his priestly line would be cut off because he honored his sons above _____ and refused to rebuke their wickedness.

B. Key Verses

WORD BANK

Belial | holy | razor

1. **(I Samuel 1:11)** And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid...then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no _____ come upon his head.
2. **(I Samuel 2:12)** Now the sons of Eli were sons of _____, they knew not the LORD.
3. **(I Samuel 2:2)** There is none _____ as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

Word Search

Find each word — forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.

L	U	U	U	S	K	I	L	Y	P	V	Y	E	E	B
O	S	C	O	H	A	C	R	Y	A	P	Y	T	A	N
M	H	P	D	T	B	M	K	L	R	W	L	A	P	H
T	I	Q	A	X	J	S	U	A	Z	O	B	T	K	A
U	L	F	N	P	D	F	Y	E	E	V	J	A	J	N
X	O	Q	V	N	R	E	J	B	L	E	J	B	Q	N
X	H	U	E	A	R	I	H	O	I	V	B	E	Y	A
U	R	W	B	Z	M	Q	E	V	S	L	P	R	Q	H
U	F	L	T	A	H	B	T	S	E	Q	A	N	N	R
E	L	S	G	R	V	O	T	A	T	X	C	A	I	L
W	N	H	R	I	L	O	R	N	K	S	U	C	S	Z
P	M	P	Z	T	F	S	W	S	W	O	P	L	Z	R
N	M	D	C	E	I	M	Q	E	A	I	S	E	D	F
S	D	P	J	H	D	B	G	K	D	J	U	Z	M	U
E	H	C	W	U	G	O	F	J	Z	R	H	U	P	S

Find These Words:

- ☐ TABERNACLE
- ☐ NAZARITE
- ☐ PRIESTS
- ☐ HANNAH
- ☐ ISRAEL
- ☐ PRAYER
- ☐ SAMUEL
- ☐ SHILOH
- ☐ VOWED
- ☐ ELI

Words may go forward,
backward, up, down,
or diagonally.

WORD SEARCH — ANSWER KEY

Child Samuel: I Samuel 1 – 2

Each word is highlighted in its unique color.

L	U	U	U	S	K	I	L	Y	P	V	Y	E	E	B
O	S	C	O	H	A	C	R	Y	A	P	Y	T	A	N
M	H	P	D	T	B	M	K	L	R	W	L	A	P	H
T	I	Q	A	X	J	S	U	A	Z	O	B	T	K	A
U	L	F	N	P	D	F	Y	E	E	V	J	A	J	N
X	O	Q	V	N	R	E	J	B	L	E	J	B	Q	N
X	H	U	E	A	R	I	H	O	I	V	B	E	Y	A
U	R	W	B	Z	M	Q	E	V	S	L	P	R	Q	H
U	F	L	T	A	H	B	T	S	E	Q	A	N	N	R
E	L	S	G	R	V	O	T	A	T	X	C	A	I	L
W	N	H	R	I	L	O	R	N	K	S	U	C	S	Z
P	M	P	Z	T	F	S	W	S	W	O	P	L	Z	R
N	M	D	C	E	I	M	Q	E	A	I	S	E	D	F
S	D	P	J	H	D	B	G	K	D	J	U	Z	M	U
E	H	C	W	U	G	O	F	J	Z	R	H	U	P	S

FILL IN THE BLANK — ANSWER KEY

A. Lesson Concepts

1. Hannah / Shiloh
2. Hannah's / Samuel
3. Samuel / Nazarite
4. Eli / priests
5. God

B. Key Verses

1. (I Samuel 1:11) razor
2. (I Samuel 2:12) Belial
3. (I Samuel 2:2) holy