



Lesson 57

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11
- **Setting:** circa 1105 B.C. in Ramah (Ramathaimzophim)
- **Characters:** God, Hannah, Elkanah, Peninnah & Eli
- **Plot:** A barren wife prays to God for a son and promises to dedicate the child to godly service.
- **Key words:** “ _____ ”
- **Climax:** *“And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.” (vs. 10)*

Hannah’s Sorrowful Plight

- 1) (1:1-8) In the time of the Judges, a man named _____ had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.
 - a) Hannah had no children and suffered ridicule at the hands of Peninnah who did. (vs. 6)
 - b) Although polygamy was tolerated and even regulated in in the Old Testament (see. Det. 21:15-17), it was never _____. The Bible often portrays polygamy as something that leads to grief and sorrow. (cf. Gen. 21:9-11; 30:1-24)
- 2) All Israelite men were required to attend _____ annual feasts at the Tabernacle (Deut. 16:1-7). Elkanah regularly attended with his family.
 - a) At the time, the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant resided in _____, about twenty miles north of Jerusalem. (Josh. 18:1; Jud. 18:31)
 - b) It was at these feasts that Peninnah would especially torment Hannah because Elkanah would demonstrate his _____ of Hannah. (vs. 4-8)

Hannah’s Soulful Prayer

- 3) (1:9-11) Following the festivities, Hannah went to the Tabernacle and poured out her heart in prayer. She prayed two things:
 - a) She asked the LORD to give her a _____.
 - b) She vowed that her son would be dedicated to LORD's service as a _____.
- 4) (1:12-17) Hannah's prayed so fervently that Eli, the priest, assumed she was _____. Hannah explained her prayerfulness to Eli who blessed her and said: *“Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.”*

